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FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1852.

[SIXPENCE

FREE TRADE IN LITERATURE.

THE world of Literature, like that of politics, has its great parties and its great questions. The Republic of letters, like other republics, is apt to be filled with strife and jealousy and attempts at misgovernment. It is the common fate of every arena in which men work and struggle. Unfortunately for literature, it has its autocrats, or men who attempt to become so; and still more unfortunately for its interests, the State has judged it expedient to legislate as if literature were the born and sworn foe of good government—a thing to be taxed and worried and oppressed; or, at the very least, to be held aloof and regarded with a mistrustful and unfriendly eye. The consequence is, that, although literature is a power in the realm, the rewards of its professors are by no means commensurate with the intellectual qualities which they display—that the prizes which fall to their lot are few—that the blanks which meet them during and at the close of their career are many; and that, considered even under its most favourable aspects, the condition of the man of letters in this the foremost country of all the world is not such as to be satisfactory to the intellectual toilers, or creditable to a nation that is so proud of its literature, and has so much reason to be so, as England.

Within the last few years it is evident to every observer, that a great revolution has been in progress in the mere trade or business of book writing and bookselling. Books have been made cheaper. The great principle of Free Trade has been at work for the advantage of the reading public. Standard books of the last century, and of an earlier date, in which there is no copyright, and for which there is, consequently, no author's fee to pay, have been reprinted at the lowest possible cost; and the publisher has contented himself with the moderate profit which the fair and open competition of his fellow-publishers has allowed him. Cheap books and cheap periodicals have multiplied; and the Rail, that has operated such great social changes in other respects, has had its due share of influence in the old and respectable trade of literature. Having

cheap bread and cheap travelling, the public has demanded cheap amusement and cheap instruction; and many booksellers able to "read the signs of the times" have endeavoured to meet the demand. Were the race of authors utterly extinct, it is likely enough that mere reprints would become quite as cheap as the public interest requires, and that books, like other commodities, would sell at such prices as the cost of production, the fair percentage upon capital, and the taxes levied by the Government would allow.

But the public has a fancy for new works as well as for old ones, and in the production and distribution of new books the principles of Free Trade have not yet been allowed their due scope. A great controversy has arisen among the booksellers upon the question of price; and in this controversy, the booksellers, who stand up for the old and dear rate, take the Protectionist ground, and insist upon the advantages of famine prices for books—not, they would have us believe, in the interest of their own tills, but in the higher interests of literature itself. The dispute has at length been brought, with a view to arbitration, under the notice of Lord Campbell—a great judge, and by no means a contemptible author; and one of the complaining parties, the advocates of the old prices, have been formally heard before him. Under these circumstances, and in the interest of authors as well as in that of the public, we desire to say a few words upon a part of the subject which the great booksellers have not touched upon.

In the first place the public should consider the position of the author, who, having some instruction to give, or some amusement to afford, comes before it, not by the spoken words of the theatre, the platform, or the pulpit, but by the printed words of the book. If it be his first attempt of the kind, the difficulties that stare him in the face are enormous. First and foremost of his enemies is the Government. The material which he uses is paper. Upon that paper the State levies a considerable Excise-duty; and if he print five hundred copies of his work, and only sell a dozen, the duty must be paid upon the whole. If his book be on a subject not

immediately likely to attract attention—if he do not strive for popularity, but if in the cause of truth he runs counter to the popular notion or prejudice—the chances are that his venture will remain almost entirely on his hands. Happier, far, is the trader who brings wine or tobacco into the country. He may allow his commodity to remain in bond, and only pay the inexorable Government the duty as he finds a market for any portion of it; but the author must pay on the whole venture at once. This is but the first of the taxes that press upon him. A book has no chance of sale unless it be known, and it cannot be known unless a certain expenditure be incurred for advertisements. Again the Government lays its heavy hand upon him; and, after all, he may, when a few years have elapsed, and his book is dead, have to dispose of his unsold copies to the cheesemonger or the trunkmaker.

But the State is by no means the worst enemy of the young or new author. A far more formidable foe rises up in the person of the publisher. We will take a common case. The author—unknown, as he may be—goes to the publisher with his manuscript. If he be a rich man, as well as an author, there is no great difficulty: the publisher will bring out his book for a certain sum, which the author will pay—and lose;—like the money wagered on the wrong horse, and there will be an end. But what will the publisher charge him? and what percentage of the price at which the book will be published will go into the winning side of the author's account? In the first place, the publisher will strike off a little more than 33 per cent. for allowance to the retail trade (25 per cent., and thirteen books to the dozen); in the next place, he will charge 10 per cent. for publisher's commission; and in the next he will pocket his percentage or profit on the printing, the binding, and the advertising. Conscience or want of conscience is the only meter of these items. It will be seen that these charges, in addition to those which the Government levies upon the author in the way of paper and advertisement duty, very greatly augment the price of the new book. It will scarcely, we think, be denied, that, as



"THE BLACK CAMP" OF NEW SOUTH WALES.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

far as the public is interested in having access to the productions of new and rising genius, these are drawbacks; and that the tendency of such a complication of bad systems, fiscal and trading, is to injure literature, and to depress and repress literary men.

In the case, however, of an author who by the aid of time and the strength of his genius has conquered these difficulties, and can go to the publisher with his MS. and be certain of receiving a handsome sum for the copyright, the question again arises, whether the bookselling system, as placed before Lord Campbell by the magnates of the Row and of Albemarle-street, accords with the interests of authors or of the public, or, in the long run, of the great booksellers themselves? We say nothing of the Government taxes in this instance. They remain an evil, as before, and will probably be remedied by this or some other Administration. The question on which we desire to dwell is that raised by the booksellers themselves, and one over which Parliaments and Government have no control. The question resolves itself into these:—Is the percentage of 33½ per cent. allowed to the retail trade not an enormous one? and if retail traders are contented to abate a portion of it, and to take only 10 or 12 per cent., giving the public the benefit of the reduction, have the great publishing houses any reason to complain, or any right to enter into a trade association to defeat the intention and keep up the price of the commodity?

The author can certainly gain nothing by the increased price, and we should think that the wholesale publisher can as certainly lose nothing by the diminished one. If the publisher gives an author £1000 for his copyright, and issues the work to the public at the nominal price of £1, and to the retail trade at 14s., it cannot injure him if the retail trade should push the market by being contented with 16s. This, however, the publishers will not allow. They refuse to supply any such retail trader with copies at the trade price; and hence the hubbub of the last few weeks, and hence the controversy which has lasted with more or less violence and virulence for the last eight or ten years, if not for a longer period.

It seems to us—with all deference to such experienced publishers as have whispered their one-sided argument in the ear of Lord Campbell—that their case is a bad one, and that common sense and fair play repudiate them. If to sell the whole issue of a book to the retail trade at a reduction of 33½ per cent. remunerates both them and the author, it is a question for the retail trade—and for them only—to decide whether it will not make an abatement for the sake of a more extensive or more rapid market. The public have an undoubted right to complain of the attempt to bolster up the price artificially; and we think that authors, equally with, if not more than the public, have a right to complain of a system which tends to diminish the number of their readers.

In conclusion, we would remind the "trade," that the retail booksellers are not now the only distributors of literature. Books of a certain weight can be sent to any part of the country by means of the Post-office for sixpence per copy, and of a greater weight for one shilling. These sums are considerably less than the trade percentage of 33½ per cent. upon books published at three shillings and upwards. Let the great publishers take care, or they will lose the position they have got. New agencies in the book trade will indubitably arise, if they persist in their present course. Publishing firms will be established to supply the public with good books at a natural and not at an artificial price, and the Post-office will perform the functions of the book distributor. However such a system might operate upon the fortunes of Albemarle-street or the Row, and upon the retail trade in general, we cannot anticipate that anything but benefit to the public and to the authors of good books would be the result. Free Trade is as good for books as it is for bread; and we live in a time when such questions begin to be thoroughly understood, in spite of all the efforts that the friends of monopoly and exclusive privileges may make to confuse them.

Since the above was written, we have been informed, on authority on which we place every reliance, that the Government has resolved not to countenance the wholesale booksellers in their attempts to regulate and control the retail trade. If our information be correct, Messrs. Longman have received notice that they are to supply all the Government works published at their establishment to the retail trade, whether the applicants be or be not members of the trade association for keeping up the price. This is, if true—and we have no doubt of the fact—an important concession, not the less suggestive as coming from a Government that is alleged to be a Protectionist one.

"A BLACK CAMP" IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AFTER THE ANNUAL GIFT OF BLANKETS FROM THE GOVERNOR.

THE Blacks of Australia are, with the exception of the Bojjesmen, the lowest and most irreclaimable of the native tribes with which we are acquainted. After strenuous efforts, commencing sixty-four years since, they are now exactly what they were when first discovered. They speak a little English, some have even been taught to read and write well; but, although occasional instances of affection and fidelity are found among them, just as we meet with tame foxes and pheasants, they are as a race truly irreclaimable.

The illustration upon the preceding page represents the camp of a party of New South Wales Blacks after they have received the annual gift of blankets which it is usual to present to them on her Majesty's birth-day. The tent-shaped erection is a gunyah, the nearest approach to a dwelling which the Blacks of this region have arrived. It is formed of a few branches of wood, covered with sheets of the bark of the gum-tree, which they strip off with remarkable ingenuity. The men are armed with spears, or the boomerang—that curious weapon, which, thrown at an enemy or game, flies in and eccentric direction, returning if required after striking to the feet of the thrower. This was long considered to be peculiar to Australia, until the discoveries at Nineveh proved that it was known to Nimrod and the Assyrians. The club, in native language nullah-nullah, is equally employed in smashing out the brains of a fallen enemy and correcting a lazy or refractory wife. Bows and arrows are unknown to them.

Those tribes which are not in receipt of blankets from the Government, still continue to manufacture very warm and beautiful cloaks of opossum-skin, which they wear with the hair side inwards, the other side ornamented with geometrical patterns drawn with wonderful accuracy. The opossum is to the Black what the reindeer is to the Laplander—the flesh is their food, the sinews make thread, and the skins are used not only for cloaks but for buckets or water-bags in crossing deserts.

The correspondent who has favoured us with the preceding Sketch, appends the following well-tempered reflections:—"The mysterious and wonderful arrangements of Divine Providence are brought forcibly to our minds on viewing the modes of life of this peculiar people, existing without a wish beyond hunting the forests, and living precariously on food which they obtain by climbing the immense gum-trees, wholly ignorant that at their roots the most precious metal has been concealed for thousands of years; generation after generation of aborigines has passed away, unconscious of the riches concealed beneath the surface of their native hunting-grounds, perchance sufficient to have made them the most powerful race under the sun."

Some fine specimens of gold from Australia have, we learn, been transmitted by Mr. Robert Cook to the British Museum and the Museum of the Geological Society, where they have attracted much attention.

THE BIGHT OF BENIN.—Tuesday night's *Gazette* contains the announcement that, on the 11th of February last, Commodore Henry William Bruce, commander in chief of her Majesty's naval forces on the west coast of Africa, issued a notification of the raising of the blockade of certain ports and places in the Bight of Benin. The notification states that the kings and chiefs of Block-house, Elmia, Chica, Adafie, Flohow, Porto Seguro, Gomoluta, Little Popoe, Agway, Great Popoe, Porto Novo, and Lakos, having entered into engagements with her Britannic Majesty's Government for the complete abolition of the traffic in slaves, their sea-coasts and ports are to be exempt from the operations of the blockade established on the 6th of December last, and to be considered free as heretofore for the purposes of legitimate trade.

The competition among the metropolitan omnibuses which run from Paddington to King's-cross for 1d. each passenger the whole distance, is now so great, that three run in company. Those which run from Paddington to the Bank now charge 1d. from the former place to Portland-road, and from thence to King's-cross 1d.; but as soon as the latter point is passed, and the competition ceases, the notice respecting the 1d. fare is reversed, and 3d. becomes the lowest fare charged, however short the distance travelled.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

The Parliamentary session under the new régime of the Prince President presents a striking contrast in its still-life and utter torpor of existence to the bustling, turbulent, factious, debating, declaiming spirit of political vitality which characterised the sessions of the Constituent and Legislative Assemblies. The chief and almost only business transacted by the *Corps Legislatif* this week was the passing of a bill for the re-coining of the copper currency of the Republic.

The approaching military fête of the 10th of May, in the Champ de Mars, meanwhile occupies the public mind in Paris, to the exclusion of almost every other subject. Not only the pomp and magnificence to be displayed on the occasion, but the very general belief that the opportunity will be taken, amidst the enthusiasm of the troops at the moment, to proclaim the Prince President Emperor, enhance in a high degree the anticipations which are formed of it. As has been already stated when the affair was first broached, all the corps of the army and navy will be represented by deputations; the regiments of the army of Italy, like those of the army of Africa, without exception; as also the military schools, and the regiments created in Algeria—the Spahis, the Zouaves, and the native Riflemen—who have already given their proofs and have become French soldiers. The principal Arab chiefs of Algeria have demanded to be allowed to come with the deputations of the army, which is considered a new proof of their sincere desire to remain united with France. The Champ de Mars is perfectly suited for this great fête. Immense stands, sumptuously decorated, will be constructed before the Ecole Militaire. In the centre will be that of the President; on the right and left those of the great bodies of the State, and of the ambassadors and members of the *corps diplomatique*. There will also be a stand containing more than 1500 places reserved for foreigners of distinction, who are expected from all parts of Europe. Around the Champ de Mars stands will also be erected for the accommodation of a vast number of spectators. A religious service will give the fête a character of grandeur and majesty. A solemn mass will be celebrated on a monumental altar, raised in the midst of the troops, and prayers will be offered for the army, the Prince, and France. The Prince will afterwards from his tribune give to the chief of each corps the eagle of his regiment, as a *souvenir* of glory, a symbol of discipline, and an oath of fidelity. The magnificent ceremony will terminate by the filing off of the troops. The day after, the army will offer a fête to the Prince President: there will be military rejoicings in the Champ de Mars, and they will be followed by an immense display of fireworks, got up by the artillery, on the heights of Chaillot. Afterwards there will be a ball at the Ecole Militaire.

The eagles are not to be distributed to the National Guard on the 10th of May, but will be presented to that force on the 15th of August. The Minister of Police has issued a circular to the inspectors-general of police, investing them with almost unlimited powers of intermeddling and espionage.

During the parliamentary session the President of the Republic intends to hold receptions at the Elysée every Monday and Saturday evening.

The death of Marshal Gérard is announced. The aged soldier died on Saturday afternoon last. One of his last wishes, expressed while lying in his sick chamber without hope of recovery, was, that he should be buried without any pomp, and that the money generally expended upon persons of his rank should be appropriated to charitable purposes.

The son of Prince Murat has joined the Chasseurs d'Afrique as a private soldier.

It is stated that M. Thiers purposes to travel in Italy, and that passports will be furnished to him by the French Government.

The *Moniteur* publishes the official tabular returns of the revenue on imports during the first quarter of the present year. The amount is 32,528,647f., an increase of 5,769,522f. as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1851, and of 4,673,648f. over that of 1850.

The *Moniteur* also publishes the returns of the Customs duties in March last, which amounted to 11,985,000f. Compared with those of the corresponding month of 1850, they increased by 2,280,000f.; and with the receipts of March, 1851, by 2,275,000f. The Customs produced, during the first quarter of the present year, 32,528,000f. In 1850 they gave 27,854,000f.; and in 1851, 26,759,000f.

PRUSSIA.

Accounts from Berlin of the 19th inst. mention that on that morning the Zollverein Conferences were opened there at eleven o'clock, with a speech from M. de Manteuffel, the Minister-President. He expressed his regret that an earlier meeting had been impossible, but he hoped that the bond of material interest in the proposed development and remodelling of the Zollverein would be preserved in its full strength. It was only when that object had been attained that other questions could be discussed. The Bavarian representative, M. Meixner, replied, expressing the wish that Austria should participate in the Zollverein, without, however, mentioning any fixed time for the admission of that State.

UNITED STATES.

Advices to the 7th inst. from New York state that throughout the country the sole object of interest at the present moment is congressional, municipal, and presidential electioneering. At St. Louis a sanguinary riot occurred, which resulted in the destruction of several houses, which were set fire to by the mob, in retaliation for having been fired upon. Several lives were lost, and many persons were badly wounded during the conflict.

The trial of the alleged Cuban expeditionists, O'Sullivan and Lewis, which had occupied the courts for several days, terminated on the 5th instant in the discharge of the jury without a verdict, they being unable to agree, and the judge being opposed to forced verdicts.

In Congress the only business of importance which had been transacted was the passing of a resolution affirming the finality of the compromise measures passed by the last Congress for a settlement of the slavery question, and making provision for the delivery of fugitive slaves.

In the Senate, on the 6th inst., a petition was presented from Henry O'Reilly, proposing to establish a line of communication, by mail and telegraph, from the Mississippi river to the Pacific Ocean. He asks no money or land—no donations or gifts, but that his line of telegraph may be protected by the military posts of the Government. As military posts have been authorised in that territory, he asks that, instead of being placed in large bodies, they may be put in stations of 20 men, at distances of 20 miles apart. Thus, the telegraphs, the mails, and emigrants also, could be protected by the same line of military posts. If this be done, he thinks he can, in two years from this time, have European news published on the Pacific coast in one week from the time of its leaving Europe.

The miscellaneous intelligence is filled with disastrous occurrences. Several destructive fires had occurred in various parts of the Union and in the west; the rivers had commenced to rise rapidly, and extensive inundations were anticipated. The inland navigation contributes more than its usual quota of fatal accidents. The following are specially noticed:—On the 3rd instant the steamer *Redstone*, from Madison (Ia.) for Cincinnati, with about seventy persons on board, blew up as she was leaving port. The force of the explosion was terrific, and completely shattered the boat, which immediately sank in twenty feet water. Only the captain and clerk were saved, and the former was severely, if not fatally injured. On the 4th the steamer *Glencoe*, of New Orleans, while making her landing at St. Louis, burst all her boilers, and taking fire, burnt to the water's edge. She had 150 passengers, a large number of whom were killed; and three other steamers, lying alongside, sustained considerable damage, and a number of men belonging to those vessels were also killed by the explosion. In other localities disasters of a similar character have been seen. On the 2nd instant the steamer *Independence*, with a valuable freight, was totally wrecked at Matagorda. She was run aground in a terrible storm, and went to pieces. The whole cargo, and many of the passengers, were lost. On the 1st instant, as the steamer *City of Richmond* was going up the Bay to New York, a schooner was seen to settle down head foremost; four men were on board forward, when all of a sudden she disappeared. A boat was lowered from the steamer, but none of the crew could be found.

Kossuth, having met with a favourable reception at Mobile, intended to remain there for some days.

Mr. Baron Parke made a pun on Monday in the Court of Exchequer, which deserves to be recorded. The learned Baron, alluding to the judgment pronounced in the court by Mr. Baron Martin in favour of the admission of Jews into Parliament, stated that his learned brother would in future be styled among the Hebrew fraternity the good Samaritan (Sam Martin)!

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

ATLESBURY.—Mr. Quintin Dick retires; and Captain Temple West, of the Grenadier Guards, son of Admiral Sir John West, K.C.B., is a candidate to succeed him. Captain West is a relative of the Duke of Buckingham, and is grandson to a gentleman who formerly represented the borough of Buckingham in Parliament.

BATH.—Mr. Whateley, Q.C., the Tory candidate, has issued a second address in which he has considerably modified his principles. On the subject of Free-trade he says:—"I will vote against re-imposing a tax upon the importation of corn, or any other measure which, in my judgment, will raise the price of bread; for, from much personal intercourse with the poor, I well know the blessing of a cheap loaf. I would, however, heartily concur in any practicable measures for the relief of the agricultural or trading interests."

BEAVERLEY.—There is every probability of a contest for the representation of the borough of Beverley-upon-Tweed. It is rumoured that the Conservative member, Mr. Campbell Renton, will retire, and that Mr. Richard Hodgson, of Carham, who formerly sat for the borough, will contest the vacancy on that interest. The other sitting member, Mr. Forster, a Free-trader, and two or three other candidates, are spoken of. It has been intimated that Mr. John Stapleton, formerly of the Northern Circuit, a brother of Lord Beaumont, will be a candidate. Mr. Stapleton is stated to be a most decided Liberal.

BEVERLEY.—Mr. Serjeant Channell is in the field as Protectionist candidate for Beverley.

BODMIN.—There are no less than seven candidates for the representation of this borough.

BRADFORD.—Mr. Wickham, the Free-trade Conservative candidate, met the electors and non-electors of Bradford on Monday night. The friends of Colonel Thompson and Mr. Milligan, the two present members, speak with confidence of their re-election.

CARMARTHEN.—By the death of the esteemed and venerable Lord Dynevor, and the consequent elevation of the Hon. Colonel George Rice Trevor, M.P., to the Peerage, a vacancy has been occasioned in our county representation. D. Jones, Esq., of Pantglas, has offered himself as a candidate for the vacancy created by the removal of Colonel Trevor to the House of Lords. He declares himself a supporter of Lord Derby's Administration.

CORK COUNTY.—In this county the Protectionist cry is still kept up, and two out-and-out food-taxers are to be started. The late unsuccessful candidate, Mr. Moreton Frewen, and his relatives, Mr. C. Frewen, M.P., and Mr. T. Frewen, have been invited to a public dinner by the Cork Protectionists.

DEVONPORT.—Lord Lennox has been mentioned as likely to contest the honour of representing the borough of Devonport and Stonehouse, in opposition to Mr. Tuffnell and Sir John Romilly, the sitting members.

DOWN.—Lord Castlereagh declines to stand for Down. He tells the electors, that if he allowed himself to be put in nomination as their candidate, they would be driven to a lasting state of estrangement from those with whom, for their common interest, they should be most closely connected; his Lordship evidently meaning thereby that they would be placed in hostile opposition to his noble father, the Marquis of Londonderry; and from such a struggle, even if successful, he can foresee no gain. Lord Edwin Hill has issued his address to the electors, in the course of which his Lordship says—"Since that one-sided policy (falsely denominated Free-trade) has become the law of the land, it would be unwise at the present time to seek for its repeal."

DURHAM.—The city of Durham will be subjected to a severe contest at the ensuing general election. One of the present members, Mr. Spearman, has announced his intention to withdraw from public life; and in addition to Lord Adolphus Vane and Mr. Thos. C. Grainger, another candidate has this week appeared in the person of Mr. Atherton, a barrister on the Northern Circuit, and a "Liberal" of the first water, in his own interpretation of the term.

EAST SOMERSET.—Mr. W. Miles has just issued an address to the electors, in which he states that he shall again appear upon the hustings as a supporter of the present Government.

ENNIS.—The people of Ennis have burnt in effigy their M.P., Mr. O'Gorman Mahon, who is at present canvassing the borough with a view to the next election. The tumult is stated to have risen to such a height on the appearance of the hon. gentleman in the streets, that the police were obliged to interfere. Nevertheless, it is said that the hon. member is determined to persevere in his canvass, and to go to the poll.

EXETER.—The Conservatives have succeeded in getting a candidate, in the person of George Stuckley Buck, Esq., eldest son of the member for North Devon, and the gentleman who was proposed to be set up by the Devon Protection Society in opposition to Sir T. Acland, Bart., who is a Free-trader.

HASTINGS.—Mr. Robert Holland has announced that he does not intend to solicit a continuance of the honour of representing the borough. There are four candidates in the field—two in the Liberal and Free-trade interest, namely, Mr. John Ashley Warre, who contested the borough in 1847, and Mr. John Locke, of the Inner Temple. Mr. Musgrove Briscoe, the present member, and Mr. Patrick Francis Robertson, are the candidates who come forward as supporters of the Derby Administration.

HEATH.—The *Hertford Mercury* says:—"We have the pleasure of announcing that the Hon. T. Trevor, Mr. Bosanquet, and Mr. Puller have acceded to the desire expressed in a very numerous signed requisition which has been presented to them, and have announced their willingness to contest the county upon Liberal and Free-trade principles." The three candidates on the opposite side are Mr. Halsey, Sir H. Meux, and Sir E. B. Lytton. The latter gentleman has issued an address to the electors of this county, in which he declares himself in favour of "remedial measures" to the suffering agricultural interest, and an adherent of the Earl of Derby's policy. He adds that he will, if returned as the representative of the county, vote for the repeal of the grant to Maynooth.

IPSWICH.—Mr. Thomas Benjamin Hobhouse has been invited to contest the borough, in company with Mr. H. E. Adair. Mr. Hobhouse is now member for Lincoln. At present Mr. Hobhouse has not definitively accepted the invitation.

KNARESBOROUGH.—On Monday the electors of this borough were started by the announcement that Mr. Winn, one of the Conservative candidates, intended to withdraw from the field. In the evening of that day a meeting of the party took place, when it was unanimously resolved that Basil T. Wood, Esq., a magistrate residing in the neighbourhood, should be requested to offer himself. With this request Mr. Wood at once complied, and on Tuesday morning issued his address to the electors, and commenced his canvass.

LIMERICK CITY.—There is likely to be a formidable contest in this city, as Mr. F. W. Russell, who had withdrawn on the occasion of the return of Lord Arundel, is determined to stand, with an amount of Roman Catholic support, notwithstanding the selection of Mr. Potter (solicitor) and Mr. Serjeant O'Brien, as their candidates, by the "Arundel Committee."

LISKEARD.—Mr. Elliott, the London brewer, a supporter of the Derby Government, is in the field to oppose Mr. Crowder. Mr. Kendall will not contest the county. Mr. Carew and Mr. Roberts will, no doubt, be returned for the eastern division.

LONGFORD.—Colonel Greville, son-in-law of the Marquis of Westmeath, has addressed the electors of Longford as a candidate. His principles are Free Trade, tenant-right, and the repeal of the Ecclesiastical Titles Act.

LOUTH.—The candidates for Louth are Mr. Chichester Fortescue, Mr. J. McClinton, and Mr. R. M. Bellew. In his address to the electors, Mr. Bellew promises to vote for Mr. Crawford's tenant-right bill.

PLYMOUTH.—The friends of each of the five candidates—namely, Messrs. Roundell Palmer and Mare (Conservatives), and Messrs. R. P. Collier, G. T. Braine, and Bickham Escott (Liberals), express themselves in confident terms as to the result of the next election. It is acknowledged on all sides, that Mr. Mare's prospects daily improve.

ROSCOMMON COUNTY.—Mr. Grace, one of the present members, is engaged in a canvass. Mr. Fitzstephen French also offers himself again. It is stated that Mr. R. Pennefather Lloyd is to try his chances on the Tory and Protectionist side.

SLIGO BOROUGH.—It is stated that Mr. Somers has so conducted himself towards all classes of his constituents as to have secured an amount of support which must extinguish every prospect of his rival, Mr. Townley.

SLIGO COUNTY.—It is understood that two Liberal candidates will be put in nomination, and with every prospect of being returned.

SUFFOLK (EAST).—Sir F. Kelly, the Solicitor-General, who has been already returned for Harwich, is canvassing also for this county. He addressed a numerous meeting of electors at Framingham on Saturday; and in reply to the query whether he would support a motion for the repeal of the malt-tax, distinctly stated that he would not do so, for the revenue arising from it was too large for any Ministry to risk its repeal.

TAUNTON.—Mr. Labouchere has announced his intention of again being a candidate for this borough. Mr. Arthur Miles, of 34, Hyde Park-gardens, has also intimated that he again offers himself as a candidate. He avows himself to be decidedly opposed to the continued endowment of Maynooth, an advocate for the removal of "that unequal pressure on the owners and occupiers of land."

TAVISTOCK.—The Hon. E. S. Russell having announced his intention to retire, Mr. George Byng offers himself as a candidate who is to have the support of the Bedford family. Much to the surprise of the electors, it was recently announced that Mr. Trelawny intended to follow the steps of his colleague, and not again to offer himself for election unless a requisition was presented to him signed by a clear majority of the electors. The other candidates are Mr. Carter (a Radical) and Mr. Phillimore, who before contested the borough in the Conservative interest.

TYNEMOUTH.—Mr. Hugh Taylor, of London, the Conservative candidate for the borough of Tynemouth, is canvassing the inhabitants of this borough.

WINDSOR.—It is stated that, for the first time within the memory of the oldest inhabitant, there will be no "Court candidate" for the borough of Windsor, at the ensuing general election. The number of voters now attached to the Royal household is about 50; tradesmen, pensioners, and others employed on the Royal domain, who would be expected to obey orders, might bring this number up to 120; and there are 710 names on the register. One of the last acts of her Majesty, during the recent sojourn of the Court at the Castle, was to issue her Royal commands that no officer attached to her person, however high his position, should interfere with the free exercise of the electoral franchise of her servants and tradesmen at the coming election, on pain of dismissal.

WORCESTER CITY.—Mr. McGarrell, a London merchant, and a supporter of the Derby's Administration, has offered himself in the room of Mr. Kifford, the banker, who has vacated his seat. Mr. Laslett, a local landed proprietor, "puts up" on the Liberal side.

Captain Kennedy, late Poor-law Inspector at Kilrush, and formerly of the 68th Light Infantry, has been appointed Governor of Gambia, in room of Richard G. McDonnell, Esq.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS RECENTLY DECEASED.

WILLIAM MAULE LORD PANMURE.



This nobleman, who was the second son of George Ramsay, eighth Earl of Dalhousie, having inherited, through his grandmother, Jane Maule, daughter of the Hon. Harry Maule, of Kellie, the extensive estates of the Earls of Panmure, changed his paternal name and arms for those of the family of Maule, and obtained his peerage by creation by letters patent, dated 9th Sept., 1831. The ancient House of Maule is

of French extraction, their surname having been assumed from the town of Maule, in the Vexin Français, eight leagues from Paris, and their original ancestor in England having been Guarin de Maule, one of the Conqueror's companions in arms. In the 13th century Sir Peter de Maule acquired the Baronies of Panmure and Benvie, in marriage with Christian, only daughter and heir of William de Valonius; and in 300 years after, his descendant, Patrick Maule, of Panmure, a staunch Cavalier, was rewarded by his Royal master, Charles I., with the Earldom of Panmure. This Peer's grandson, the Hon. Harry Maule, of Kellie, a devoted adherent of the Chevalier St. George, was father of Jane Maule, through whom the Ramsays have succeeded to the estates of the Maules. Lord Panmure, whose death we record, was born 27th October, 1771. He married, first, December 1, 1794, Patricia-Heron, daughter of Gilbert Gordon, Esq., of Halleaths, and by her (who died May 11, 1821) had issue three sons and six daughters. The sons are—1. The Right Hon. Fox MAULE, M.P., late Secretary-at-War, and now second Lord Panmure, who is heir presumptive to the Earldom of Dalhousie; 2. Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Lauderdale Maule; and 3. The Hon. William Maule Maule. Of the daughters, his eldest, Patricia, is the widow of Sir Alexander Ramsay, Bart.; the third, Mary, is the wife of James Hamilton, Esq., of Bangour; and the fifth, Ramsay, is married to Donald Macdonald, Esq., of Sandside. Lord Panmure married, secondly, in 1822, Miss Elizabeth Barton, but by her had no child. He died at Brechin Castle, in Forfarshire, on the 13th inst.

PRINCE PAUL OF WURTEMBERG.

PRINCE PAUL CHARLES AUGUSTUS, brother of William I., the present, and son of Frederick II., the late King of Wurtemberg, was born on the 19th of January, 1785. His career was that of a soldier, and he served with distinction in the Russian and French armies. For the last thirty years he has been a continual resident in France. Prince Paul married, on the 28th of September, 1809, the Princess Charlotte, daughter of Frederick Duke of Saxe-Altenburg, by whom, who died on the 12th of December, 1847, he had two sons and two daughters. The elder of these daughters is the wife of the Grand Duke Michael of Russia, and the younger is widow of Duke William of Nassau. Prince Paul's elder son is in the Wurtemberg and the Russian military service, and is married to his first cousin, the Princess Catherine, daughter of the present King of Wurtemberg. Prince Paul's younger son commands the first brigade of the King of Russia's Horse Guards. Prince Paul of Wurtemberg died on the 16th instant, at his hotel in the Place Vendôme. The Prince's brother-and-law, the Marshal and ex-King Jerome Bonaparte, as well as the Prince President, and Prince Nicholas of Nassau, Prince Paul's grandson, were present when he breathed his last. The family of Wurtemberg is Protestant, but the Prince had become a Roman Catholic some time previous to his demise.

The Royal House of Wurtemberg is closely allied by marriage with that of Bonaparte. The sister of Prince Paul, whose death we record, the Princess Catherine, was the devoted wife of Jerome Bonaparte. She shared with him the throne of Westphalia, and was the willing and affectionate partner of his subsequent adversity. Her death occurred in 1836. The Princess Theodolinda Beaumarnais, sister of the present Duke of Leuchtenberg, and first cousin of the Prince-President Louis Napoleon, is the wife of Count William of Wurtemberg, a first cousin of the deceased Prince Paul.

MARSHAL GERARD.

MARSHAL STEPHEN COUNT GERARD, a Marshal of France, Knight of St. Louis, and Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honour, was born on the 4th April, 1773, at Damvillers, a small town in the department of the Meuse, in Lorraine. His military career, which began in the first revolution, was rapid and creditable. In 1791 he entered the French army as a volunteer, and he became a General of Brigade in 1806. During that period he shared in the victories of Fleurus and Austerlitz. He was made a General of Division in 1812, and a Count of the Empire in 1813. Gérard was ever closely attached to the interests of his imperial master, and he followed his fortunes to Waterloo. On the day of that terrible battle he was with Marshal Grouchy, and in vain endeavoured to induce the hesitating commander to join the engagement, and succour the Emperor in the emergency to which Philippe, in 1830, Gérard remained out of active service. In August, 1830, he was appointed Minister of War, and was created a Marshal of France. He commanded the Army of the North, and was present at the taking of Antwerp in 1832: in 1834 he was again Minister of War. Marshal Gérard was also twice President of the Ministerial Council; he obtained the Chancellorship of the Legion of Honour in 1836. This gallant soldier, who at the time of his death was Senior Marshal, departed this life on the 17th inst.

SIR HENRY RUSSELL, BART., OF SWALLOWFIELD, BERKS.

THE death of this Baronet occurred on the 19th inst. Sir Henry was the eldest son of the first Baronet, Sir Henry Russell, who filled the office of Chief of the Supreme Court of Justice in Bengal. His mother, Anne Barbara, was sister of Earl Whitworth.

He was born the 27th of May, 1783, and married twice: his first wife, Jane, second daughter of John Cassamajor, Esq., of Madras, died the 29th of December, 1808, just two months after her marriage. His second wife was Maria-Clotilde, daughter of Monsieur B. Mottet, of Pondicherry, and by her he leaves two surviving sons—Charles, of the Grenadier Guards, now Sir Charles Russell, third Bart. of Swallowfield; and George, of Exeter College, Oxford; besides three daughters, who are married. Sir Henry's eldest son, Henry, died at Cairo, Jan. 20, 1847, aged twenty-seven.

We are glad to find that our statement relative to the extinction of the family of the Right Hon. Edmund Burke is incorrect. The late Thomas Haviland Burke, Esq., the great orator's representative, whose Memoir appeared in last week's *Obituary*, has left a son, Edmund Haviland Burke, at present a student at Eton, and a youth of much promise.

Mr. Spencer, better known as Father Ignatius, is in Vienna, raising funds for the "conversion" of the Protestants of England.

The town councils of Glasgow and Edinburgh, the merchants of Perth, and several of our contemporaries on the other side of the Tweed, are urging the necessity for the extension of the telegraphic system, both to cheapen its use and to ensure greater dispatch, that the newspapers may be able to give later news to their local readers.

M. Ferdinand Flocon, a member of the French Provisional Government of 1848, was condemned, at Carlsruhe, on the 16th instant, to fourteen months' imprisonment, for having committed the crime of *lese Majesté* against the reigning Grand Duke, by publishing articles in *Le Démocrate Rhénan*. M. C. F. Meyer and J. Bastian were, at the same time, sentenced, the first to twenty months and the second to thirty months' imprisonment, for similar offences. The accused, not appearing, were condemned as contumacious. As they are French subjects, the Government of Baden has no means of executing the sentences.

A correspondent of the *Dublin Freeman* states, that, at the Roman Catholic cathedral of St. Chad's, a letter of Dr. Ullathorne was read from the pulpit, in which it was announced that a synod of the new hierarchy of the Catholic church in England had been summoned by his Eminence Cardinal Wiseman to meet at Oscot College in the month of May.

On Monday, information was received that Mr. George Frederick Foden, the well-known coa-agent of Lancaster, had gone off, taking with him £500 in cash, the money of the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres. At the instance of the noble Earl, a warrant for his apprehension has been placed in the hands of Superintendent Wright.

Accounts received from Perth, Western Australia, to the 7th of February, state that mineral resources were being prosecuted with vigour, and some lodes of copper which had been discovered would, it was anticipated, when thoroughly developed, be profitably worked. An Adelaide (South Australian) paper states that a "nugget" of gold, the first produce of the territory, had been forwarded to England as a present to Prince Albert.

The banking-house of Messrs. J. W. and R. Hall, known as the Forest of Dean Bank, was utterly destroyed by fire a few days ago. One of the female domestics, a girl between 17 and 18 years of age, unfortunately perished in the flames.

The *New York Truth-teller* says:—"As we are going to press we learn that orders have been issued for the release of the Irish State prisoners, Smith O'Brien, John Mitchell, and their companions: subject, however, to the condition that they are not to set foot in the United Kingdom."

An order has been received in this country for the construction of thirty iron steam-boats for the use of the Danube Steam Navigation Company. They are to be of large dimension, and of substantial materials. The order has been distributed so as to give employment in the districts—namely, Liverpool, the Clyde, and Newcastle—where it is well known that the largest number of steam-boats have been built, and where the greatest amount of experienced men have been acquired.

The tea deliveries in London last week increased nearly 200,000 lb., having amounted to 674,192 lb.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

CLAIM OF JEWS TO SIT IN PARLIAMENT.—ALDERMAN SALOMONS.

On Monday last, in the Court of Exchequer, judgment was delivered in the case of "Miller v. Salomons," on the question which has been before the public so much of late, as to the right of Jews to be members of Parliament.

The interest and importance of the matter attracted a crowded attendance in court. Among those present were the defendant himself, Alderman Salomons, M.P. Baron Rothschild, M.P., and Lord Rutherford, of the Scotch Court of Session, and recently Lord Advocate of Scotland.

The case was argued at much length in Hilary Term last, upon the reserved law points of a special verdict which was delivered at the preceding Michaelmas Term; when the matter came before the court as an action for trial. The action was to recover penalties alleged to be forfeited by the defendant under the statutes 1 George 1, sess. 2, c. 13, s. 17, and 6 George 3, c. 53, s. 1, by reason of his having voted in the House of Commons without having taken the oath of abjuration contained in the latter statute. The declaration stated that "the defendant was duly returned to serve in Parliament as a burgess for the borough of Greenwich, and that he voted in the House of Commons without having taken and subscribed the above oath, and thereby forfeited the sum of £500. There were two other similar counts, but they were abandoned, in order to raise the substantial question in controversy between the parties, and avoid all technical difficulty by reason of more than one penalty being recovered for alleged offences against the statutes committed on the same day."

The special verdict given at this Michaelmas trial set forth the various facts and the history of the case, which are familiar to the public; the manner in which an oath was binding upon the conscience of a Jew; and the refusal of the defendant to repeat the words in the oath of abjuration, "upon the true faith of a Christian," when sworn as a member at the table of the House of Commons, and that the Speaker on that occasion objected that the defendant had not taken the oath in the manner required by law, and requested him to withdraw, which, however, he did not do, declaring that he had taken the oath in the form binding upon his conscience, which the special verdict found to be the truth. The verdict then proceeded to state what took place with respect to the signature of the roll, and concluded by submitting to the Court whether the defendant had lawfully taken the oath of abjuration.

This was the case which was argued before the Court in Hilary Term, when it was contended on behalf of the plaintiff that the oath was a Christian oath, and could only be made by a Christian; that it could not be lawfully taken without repeating the words "upon the true faith of a Christian," which, as it was argued, were a necessary and essential part of the oath. For the defendant the plea put in and contended for was, in substance, that he had taken the oath to all intents and purposes, and that the repeating of the words quoted was not necessary.

The Court now gave judgment, each of the learned judges—viz. the Lord Chief Baron, Mr. Baron Parke, Mr. Baron Alderson, and Mr. Baron Martin—entering at great length into the various law points and arguments raised by counsel on both sides, and into the history and circumstances of the various enactments bearing upon the subject.

The judgment of the court was against the defendant, Mr. Alderman Salomons, as the majority of the bench—viz. Baron Alderson, Baron Parke, and the Lord Chief Baron—concurred in holding that the words "on the true faith of a Christian" were the essence of the oath; and that if these words were omitted the oath was not taken at all: while the decision of Baron Martin, that those words were introduced into the oath not as a test of Christianity, but in order to bind more effectually the conscience of Roman Catholics, was alone in favour of the defendant; and, as the majority always prevails in cases of divided opinion on the bench, judgment was entered for the plaintiff.

It is understood that a writ of error is being prosecuted, for the purpose of obtaining the decision of the highest judicial tribunal in the kingdom upon the case.

THE QUEEN v. NEWMAN.—LIBEL ON DR. ACHILLI.—In the Court of Queen's Bench, on Saturday last, upon the application of Sir A. Cockburn on behalf of the defendant, and with the concurrence of the prosecutor, for an early day to be named for the trial in this case in the sittings after the present term, Lord Campbell said the case might be entered in the list. Sir A. Cockburn could communicate with the other side; and, if he found that he could undertake that the case would not occupy more than two days, he (Lord Campbell) would, under the special circumstances, take it; but, if that undertaking could not be given, it must follow the ordinary course, as the Court could not sacrifice the interests of the other suitors.

FEARGUS O'CONNOR, M.P.—The preliminary steps have been taken in the Lord Chancellor's office for issuing a commission of lunacy upon this unfortunate gentleman, whose eccentricities have for some time past been made known to the public, with a view to his confinement.—*Sun*.

METROPOLITAN AND PROVINCIAL LAW ASSOCIATION.—On Wednesday the annual general meeting of the members of this association took place at the offices of the association, 8, Bedford-row; Mr. E. W. Field, the chairman of the committee, in the chair. The committee, in their report, entertain strong hopes that the annual certificate duty may be repealed this year. The report also contained analytical criticisms upon several of the more important law bills at present before Parliament, in which the committee are endeavouring to introduce various amendments. The balance-sheet shows the funds of the association to be in a healthy condition.

THE CRIMINAL LAW.—The bill introduced into Parliament by the Attorney-General for the amendment of the criminal law has just been printed. It empowers magistrates within the jurisdiction of the Central Criminal Court and the Metropolitan Police District to imprison persons for a period not exceeding six months for uttering counterfeit coin; or he may send the case to the sessions. In larcenies and misdemeanours, where the offence is confessed, and summary punishment is desired, magistrates may imprison with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding twelve months.

ABOLITION OF GRAND JURIES.—On Wednesday Sir F. Thesiger's bill to abolish the grand jury system, and also indictments within the jurisdiction of the Central Criminal Court and within the Metropolitan Police District, was printed. In lieu of indictments informations are to be filed, and the charges to be tried. A day is to be named when the alterations are to commence.

At Bow-street police-office, on Thursday, *Joseph Swan*, a young man, who described himself as a draper, was committed for trial on the charge of stealing a quantity of Californian gold from the British Museum, having been found secreted in the mineral department on the previous evening, with about £40 worth of gold upon his person.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

ROYAL NAVAL SCHOOL.—His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, who is a life governor of this school and one of its earliest and most liberal benefactors, has handsomely expressed his intention of continuing the marine cadetship, annually granted for competition by his Grace's predecessors in office. The majority of the pupils to whom these cadetships have hitherto been awarded have passed into the Royal Marine Artillery. The school now consists of a larger number of pupils than it has contained during the last five years, there being nearly 180 students.

NAVAL OFFICERS' STORES.—The Board of Customs have issued an order, directing that no rent be charged on stores forming the remains of the sea stock of naval officers paid off from her Majesty's ships, until the same shall have been in the Queen's warehouse twelve months.

Captain Harris, of the East India Company's Bengal Infantry, died at Barrackpore on the 7th ult., after many years' service in India, and on his return to England on completing the usual period of service. Captain Harris was present in the Sutlej campaign of 1845-46, and acted as aide-de-camp to Sir Harry Smith at Sobraon and previously at Aliwal. He had received the medal for Aliwal and Sobraon.

It is ordered by the Admiralty, that on and after the 1st January, 1853, all naval clerks who shall have passed the requisite examination as to fitness for the rank of paymaster in the Royal navy, so as to be duly denominated "passed clerks," shall be exempt from the provisions and regulations of the several acts of Parliament relating to petty officers and seamen in her Majesty's service, so far as regards their wills, administrations, powers of attorney, and prize orders, and that any deeds of assignment which passed clerks may make after that date will be subject to the rules applying to those of commissioned officers.

The Carabineers now concentrated in Portobello Barracks, near Dublin, are in daily expectation of receiving the augmentation of officers consequent upon the regiment being placed upon the India establishment. All the men whose bulk and figure had constituted this fine corps have been drafted into other cavalry regiments, the 4th and 5th Dragoon Guards obtaining the majority of the "turnovers." The new blue jackets were served out on Saturday, and on Sunday the regiment was paraded, for the first time, partially equipped as Light Cavalry. The facings remain the same, white; and the brass helmet has not yet been replaced by the shake of the Light Dragoons.

RAILWAY FARES FOR TROOPS.—It appears that the Secretary-at-War proposes, in a circular to railway companies, that they should reduce the fares authorised to be charged for the conveyance of troops by railway, the present fares being 2d. per mile for each officer, and 1d. per mile for each soldier.

THE LOSS OF THE "BIRKENHEAD."—A meeting of officers of the navy and army, and heads of establishments at Portsmouth, was held in the Royal Naval College, in that dockyard, on Saturday, the Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Sir T. Briggs, in the chair—for the purpose of organising measures to collect subscriptions for the relief of the relatives of those lost in her Majesty's steamer *Birkenhead*. A committee, composed of highly influential and many distinguished officers of both services, was formed, bankers appointed, and a handsome subscription list at once opened. The officers of this port, and the officers and men of all the ships in commission at Plymouth, Sheerness, and Woolwich, have followed the example set them at this port by subscribing one day's pay to this object.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT NAVAL SOCIETY.—On Monday the quarterly court of this society was held at the Thatched House Tavern, Vice-Admiral the Right Hon. Lord Radstock, C.B., president, in the chair. The financial statement represented the income for the quarter at £2413 0s. 3d., and the expenditure at £1609 5s. 2½d. Of the expenditure £502 was disbursed in grants to distressed officers, their widows and families. The chairman was directed to write a letter of thanks to the executors of the late Mrs. Henry Ozle, for apportioning to the society £500 of the sum bequeathed by that lady for general charity.

THE QUEEN'S BAYS.—Lieutenant Haviland, on retiring from this regiment last week, delivered the following valedictory address to the non-commissioned officers and privates:—"Brother soldiers,—I am about quitting the 2d Dragoon Guards, and find it a hard task to bid adieu to such noble fellows as compose the distinguished corps in which I was born, and in which I have served upwards of thirty-six years. It is my first duty, in taking leave, to return you my grateful thanks for having, by your good conduct, made my service both pleasant and honourable. I commenced my career as a private (although the son of an officer), and by assiduous attention to my duty, combined with cheerful obedience to orders, I have risen from the ranks to the high and honourable position of your adjutant. To serve our country is a great privilege, but to serve it in the Queen's Bays is a happiness that few can attain. You are well aware that, in this happy old corps, every dragoon is treated with propriety and justice—he receives his due with scrupulous exactness, he experiences every proper indulgence, and has every comfort and advantage that his situation can afford, both in sickness and in health, with a liberal provision for his old age; therefore, every exertion is required for him to show his zealous attachment to a service which is as honourable as it is advantageous. I will take the liberty of pointing out what the soldier should avoid—i.e. drunkenness, late hours, and loose companions; keep clear of these, and you will attain contentment, and the honourable distinguishing badges for good conduct, with extra pay whilst serving, and a better pension on discharge, as well as retain the unblemished reputation of the Queen's Dragoon Guards, which is as conspicuously held on all occasions, through the vicissitudes of 167 years. To your wives I bid farewell, with a deep and lasting regret, because their virtuous conduct, cleanliness, and attention to the comfort of all have, in a great measure, rendered the barrack-room your happy home, and so prevented crime: gratitude is due to them. God bless you all, and give you every comfort in this world. Let my last words be ever in your thoughts; these are—Fear God, honour your Sovereign, obey your superiors, and love one another."

THE SHIPS ON THE ICE OFF NEWFOUNDLAND.

Some further communications have been published respecting the two ships seen, or supposed to have been seen, from the trading-ship *Renovation*, on an iceberg, last spring, off the American coast, and conjectured to be Sir J. Franklin's vessels—a notice and Sketch relating to which appeared in the *ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS* of last week.

Mr. Robert Simpson, master of the *British Queen*, and late mate of the *Renovation*, who was the person that saw the supposed ships and made the entry about them in the log, has made a statement on the subject at Limerick to Captain E. Ommanney, R.N., who has forwarded it to the Admiralty. Mr. Simpson says:—

Sailed from Limerick, as mate of the *Renovation* (master, Mr. E. Coward), 6th of April, 1851, for Quebec. About the 18th or 20th of April fell in with numerous icebergs. On the second morning after sighting the icebergs I had the morning watch. About 6 A.M. I saw two vessels lying on an iceberg. One was lying on her beam-ends, with her deck towards us, having only her lower masts and bowsprit left standing. The other had her topmasts on end, with lower and topsails yards across, but no sails bent; she had no topgallantmasts up, and was nearly end on to us. She was lying on an elevated part of the ice, far above the other one. I went down and called the master, who was lying very ill in bed, and reported the circumstance to him. At first he was not to speak; I mentioned it a second time, when he said, "Never mind." I returned on deck, and stood on the lee quarter to watch the vessels; all the watch came aft to look at them with the spyglass. I called Mr. Lynch (passenger) out of his bed, who came immediately in his shirt and drawers, but afterwards went down and dressed. We both examined them with the spying-glass; each man of the watch looked through the glass at them also. We continued our course; I did not like to incur the responsibility of altering it without the master's sanction, but fully expected to receive orders to close the vessels. I think I called him twice, as I told Mr. Lynch at the time I should like to go on board. * * * Before they went out of sight Mr. Lynch remarked that they might be Franklin's ships, as they were so near to each other. I regarded them as wrecks, and therefore did not trouble my mind further about them at the moment. I remarked to Mr. Lynch that there were no sails bent. There were no signs of any person being alive on board them. Could discern nothing but the hulls, masts, and yards. Our nearest distance when the ships were abeam was about five miles, or just able to distinguish with the naked eye the hulls and masts. There were many other icebergs in sight at the time.

Captain Simpson, in a letter to his uncle, Mr. Landells, of London, says that Mr. Lynch, if applied to, would corroborate the above statement.

Captain Penny, who commanded one of the searching expeditions which proceeded to the Arctic Sea last year, has, however, furnished a very probable solution of the question. He says, in a letter replying to inquiries on the subject:—

You ask me what I think of the two ships seen upon the iceberg. I think they were "country ships," as we whalers call them—formations upon an iceberg which deceived even practised eyes.

To place ships in such a position by the process of freezing into an iceberg would require thirty or forty years, and floe ice would have been broken up with the Western Ocean swell before it had even reached Cape Farewell. Not a piece of sufficient size would be found to contain even one ship, much less two. No iceberg of one-fourth of a mile would reach such a position; it must have been two pieces of icebergs, and the vessel being five miles distant, could not observe the water over the detached ice.

We have the experience of the eleven whalers wintered on the ice; they all broke from their icebergs long before they reached Cape Farewell.

I have the honour to remain, yours most respectfully, W. PENNY.

MALAY PIRATES IN THE CHINA SEAS.

HER Majesty's ship *Royalist* is at present engaged in the survey of the island of Palawan, a country but little known; and the official report of Commander Bate, just received, contains some interesting details.

"As we were nearly in the parallel of a deep bay which occurs on the east coast (says Commander Bate), and in the south-west extremity of which the Spanish settlement of Tai-tai is situated, I conceived the idea of endeavouring to effect a communication with that place by making a journey across the island, which, if accomplished, would give me a good insight into the topography of the country, &c."

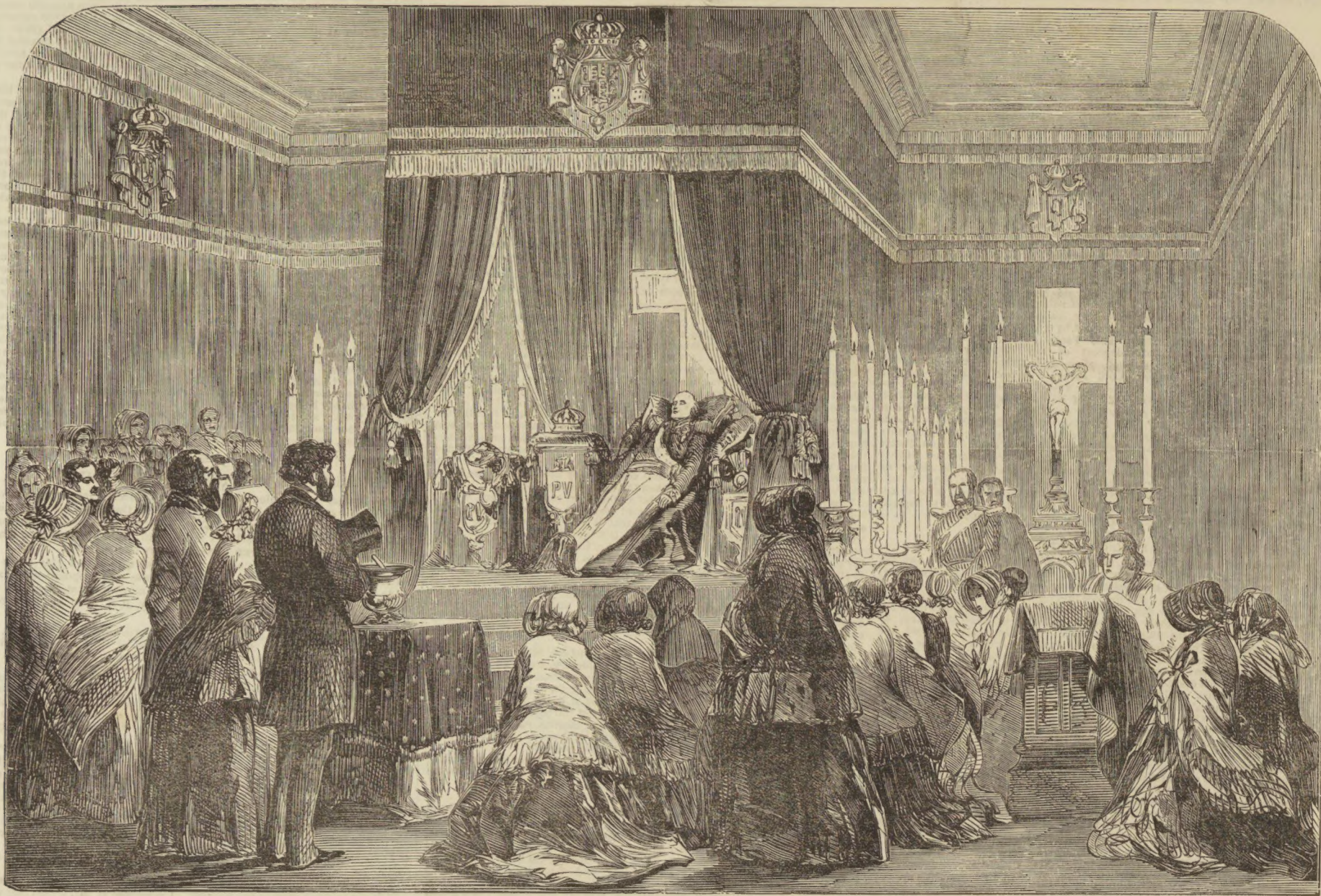
Fortunately the Commander fell in with a native guide, and next morning he left the ship in a five-oared gig, accompanied by four officers, and after a long pull arrived at Pancel, distant about twenty miles, about noon.

"Pancel is the second Spanish settlement on this coast, and contains a population of fifty, exclusive of women and children. It is situated on the eastern shore of an extensive sound, and bears E.N.E. from the high table-land of Malampaya. Here, by pulling five miles farther in a south-easterly direction, and disembarking at the head of a mangrove creek, which runs high into the body of the island, we arrived at the point of debarkation at 3 P.M., leaving the gig to take shelter for the night, at a stockade which commanded the entrance of the creek. After wading through a swamp entangled by mangrove roots, we emerged into somewhat clearer ground, and then soon came upon a footpath in thick underwood. Ultimately we got a clear path which led in a S.E. direction through an open tract of country, then bending its course eastward. The highest point ascended crossing the island was 110 feet above the level of the sea. Its soil is of a sandy description, and the long coarse grass which is so perplexing to the clearers of land at Singapore grows in luxuriance here. We arrived at Tai-tai at sunset, and were received with the greatest hospitality by the Spanish authorities. Their gun-boat squadron had been engaged with four piratical prahus in the neighbourhood of Tac-boo-loo-bo, the latter being the aggressors, which resulted in the total defeat of the pirates, but with a loss on their side of one gun-boat, and her crew blown up. We left Tai-tai at noon the following day, and returned by the same route. On our arrival at Pancel, at 5 P.M., we found the village in a state of excitement from a report brought by one of their own boats, that seven large pirate prahus were in the neighbourhood."

"We bivouacked on the beach, in advance of the village, for the night. The inhabitants, from the noise they made throughout it, relieved us of the necessity of keeping a very strict look-out. Daylight approached (June 12), no pirates came, and we set out on our return to the ship."

"The extent of Malampaya Sound (through which we had to pull), including the Endeavour Strait, is twenty miles in a north and south, and averages eight miles in an east and west, direction. Its resources for giving security to hordes of pirates are great, owing to the number of islands of various sizes contained in it, most of the shores of which are broken by mangrove creeks, the entrances being imperceptible until close to, because of the sameness of the foliage. We had only proceeded in the gig about five or six miles, when three boats pulling a number of oars were discovered steering in a direction to cut the gig off. I pulled towards them, when they merely slackened their speed and closed upon the centre boat, in order that they might be better supported by five large prahus which made their appearance from behind a small island. The large prahus (each carrying from fifty to sixty men, with their fighting stages erected over the rowers), exhibiting a formidable appearance, advanced by open order in the form of a crescent, apparently with the intention of hemming us in."

Being fifteen miles from the ship, and in a channel difficult to identify, the commander made the best of his way to the vessel: the chase became general; the lofty sails of the prahus were very effective; and the pirates, seeing the advantage they were gaining, opened fire (with their leahs), and followed up each discharge with a hideous yell, but their shot fell wide and beyond the gig. When within three or four miles of the ship, the pirates suddenly lowered their sails, and came to in the middle of the strait. The Com-



CHAPELLE ARDENTE OF THE REMAINS OF PRINCE PAUL OF WURTEMBERG, PLACE VENDOME, PARIS.

maunder made the best of his way on board, and, near midnight, the ship took up a position southward, blockading the only known available channel through which the pirates might possibly get to sea; the pinnace being despatched to take up a position in shore for the purpose of intercepting them should they put to sea under cover of the darkness of the land. After two days and one night's fruitless search, the report continues:—

"The pirate fleet, now left in our rear, was estimated to consist of 400 men disposed in eight prahus, a force sufficient to devastate any portion of country in this neighbourhood, and consign its inhabitants to hopeless slavery. I have entered more fully into the detail of this circumstance than I should otherwise have done, because the impression appears to be gaining ground that there are no such persons as pirates in these seas; whereas I know, both on the east and west coasts of Palawan, the people are kept in constant dread of them.

"It will be interesting to add, that on our visit to Palaoan Bay, Mindoro Island, in December last, the inhabitants informed us that on the 22d May, 1851, seven prahus, each containing about 50 men, suddenly appeared in the bay, ransacked the village, carried off five women and two children, murdering at the same time one man and wounding two others, because they resisted the capture of their families. No doubt they were the same we encountered a few days afterwards in Malampaya Sound, as they stood in that direction after leaving Palaoan Bay."

The illustration is from a Sketch taken by Captain Bate, during the heat of the chase in Endeavour Straits, when the boat was about nine miles from the *Royalist*. The high land at the back is Malampaya Table.

DEATH OF PRINCE PAUL OF WURTEMBERG.

A Royal death has occurred within the last few days at Paris, which has given occasion to much gossip in fashionable and political circles, owing to the alleged change of religion on the part of the Royal personage a short time prior to his decease. This personage was Prince Paul, the only brother of the reigning King of Wurtemberg, and brother-in-law of the ex-King of Westphalia, Marshal Jerome Bonaparte, the uncle of the President of the French Republic. The de-

ceased was in other respects also connected with the great and Royal houses of Europe, as he was father of the Archduchess Helen and of the Duchess of Nassau, and his eldest daughter is the widow of the Grand Duke Michael, brother of the Emperor of Russia.

Prince Paul died on the morning of Friday week, at his mansion in the Place Vendôme. He had for several days before his death been given over by his physicians; and on the day preceding (Thursday) he became insensible and speechless. Prince Nicolas de Nassau, grandson of Prince Paul, the ex-King Jerome, and Prince Napoleon Bonaparte, his nephew, were at the bedside of the deceased, as well as the Russian and Wurtemberg Ministers, on Friday morning, when the Pope's Nuncio entered the room, which created not a little astonishment amongst those present, as Prince Paul, as well as all the Royal family of Wurtemberg, professed the Protestant religion. It was then stated that Prince Paul had, in the course of January last, abjured the religion of his fathers, and had been converted to the Roman Catholic religion. The Prince of Nassau on this announcement protested against his grandfather's change of religion being regarded as a valid act, as he considered his relative was not in a state of mind which would warrant its being accepted in the same way as if Prince Paul were in full possession of his faculties unimpaired. The earnestness and promptness of this protest on the part of the young Prince of Nassau arose from the fact that the abandonment of the Protestant faith by Prince Paul would occasion the forfeiture of his right to the throne of Wurtemberg, to which, failing the family of the Prince Royal, he was heir presumptive, and would thus vitiate, and perhaps render null, the title of his descendants to the throne. Important political questions are involved, and their solution will depend upon the light in which jurists will regard his death-bed change of religion, for one of the rumours afloat assigned the period of his embracing the Roman Catholic faith to the fortnight immediately preceding his death.

The Pope's Nuncio and an attendant priest, from the Madeleine ad-

ministered the last sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church to the Prince before his death.

Prince Paul was born on the 19th of January, 1785, and was therefore in his 67th year. He had resided in France for the last thirty years, and was much attached to that country. He had served both in the French and Russian armies. The Prince has left two sons, viz. Prince Frederick and Prince Augustus.

On Saturday and Sunday the mansion in the Place Vendôme was crowded with visitors to see the *chapelle ardente* in which the remains of the Prince were laid out. The body was attired in the uniform of a lieutenant-general, with the star and the grand cordon of the Royal order of the House of Wurtemberg, and the military cross was laid on a state bed. The Royal crown was placed on a stool at the head of the bed, whilst on the left were to be seen, lying on cushions, the orders of the Legion of Honour, of the Black and Red Eagles of Prussia, and of St. Hubert of Bavaria. The Baron de Waechter, Minister of Wurtemberg, and the persons attached to the legation, wearing the official uniform, sat for some time at the side of the state bed.

The Prince's will was opened on Saturday, with the usual formalities, by M. de Belleyme, President of the Tribunal of Première Instance. It had been entrusted by the Prince to M. Henry Iver, notary public. Prince Nicholas of Nassau, the grandson of the Prince, the Minister of Wurtemberg, and six other witnesses were present. The testamentary executors are MM. Berryer and Mitvaffel.

Nothing has been as yet decided as to the funeral, as the orders of the King of Wurtemberg are awaited from Stuttgart on the subject.

In consequence of the death of the Prince, the ball which was to have taken place at the Tuilleries on the 19th has been postponed to the 26th inst. The ball of the Minister of Marine has also been postponed to the 27th, on the same ground.

Our Engraving represents the lying of the body in state in the *chapelle ardente*.

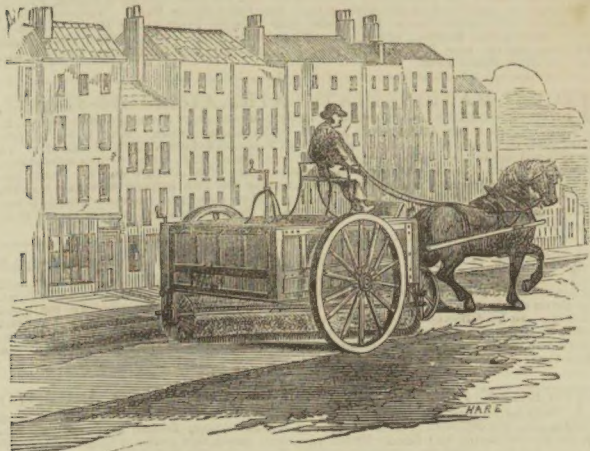


FLEET OF MALAY PIRATES AND "ROYALIST" BOAT IN ENDEAVOUR STRAITS.

BLUNDELL'S PATENT SWEEPING MACHINE.

ONE of the practical results of the appointment of Sanitary Committees for improving the condition of our towns has been the introduction of mechanical means of cleansing the streets and public roads more economically and effectually than by the scavengers of old. A very useful invention of this class, shown in our Illustration, has lately been patented by Mr. Blundell. This Sweeper consists of revolving brushes, capable of being raised or lowered at will, and working diagonally beneath the machine, which is boxed up, and inside which is the gear-work, which is set in motion by the road wheels. The machine is manufactured by Mr. Crosskill, of Beverley, who has lately introduced it to the notice of the local authorities of Hull, before whom a trial has been made, by sweeping several streets in the town; when the gentlemen assembled to witness the experiment expressed their approbation at the manner in which the machine did its work.

We understand that a man and horse, working the machine eight hours per day, at the very moderate pace of two miles per hour, will thoroughly sweep 56,320 superficial yards; and estimating 5s. per day for the horse, 3s. for the man, and 1s. for wear and tear, the work is done at a cost of about 2d. per 1000 yards; depositing the dust, dirt, &c.,

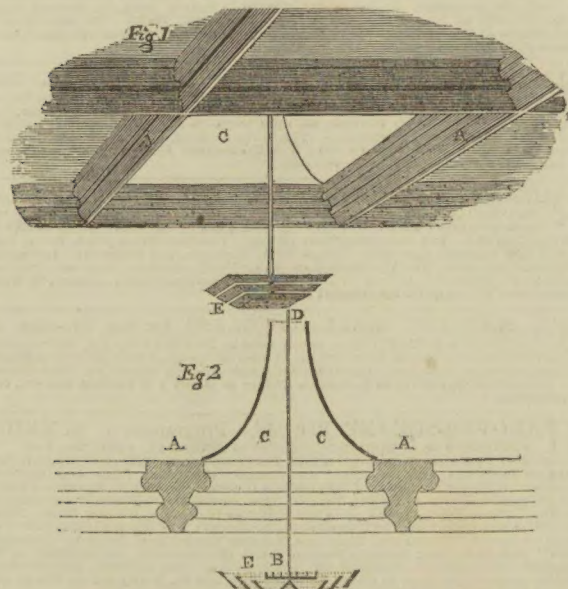


BLUNDELL'S PATENT SWEEPING MACHINE.

on each side of the road or street, ready for removal by the scavengers' carts. On macadamised roads the mud or dust is removed with a rapidity unprecedented. The pavement can be swept by hand machines with equal expedition and effect.

DR. REID'S SYSTEM OF LIGHTING THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ON Monday last Dr. Reid's system of lighting the House of Commons was, for the first time, tried. The arrangement dispenses with the massive chandeliers which are represented in the Number of our Journal for February 7, and substitutes, in lieu of them, rings of gas jets pendant to about the level of the main beams of the ceiling. Panels of the flat part of the ceiling have been taken out; and, in the openings thus made, pyramidal boxes, if they may be so termed, open at the top, and painted a brilliant white, are inserted; and through the opening is pendant the gas-pipe, at the end of which is the ring of jets. This arrangement will be best understood by reference to the Diagrams. Fig. 1 shows the ceiling in perspective, the gas ring being hidden by a contrivance to prevent the great glare of the light from it being hurtful to the eyes. Fig. 2 shows the same in section; *a a* being the ribs of the ceiling; *b*, the gas jets, with the shield (*e*); *c c*, the conical chamber or box open at the top (*d*). The same letters of reference serve also for Fig. 1. The appearance of the House is completely spoiled by this arrangement: the little compartments so brilliantly white are perfectly ugly and unmeaning; the whole, in fact, quite at variance with the character of the architecture. In addition to these alterations in the ceiling, the stained glass has been taken from two of the windows, and rows of gas jets placed outside to throw a volume of light into the House; this alteration, also, is quite opposed to the richly coloured light which should add its charm to the rich

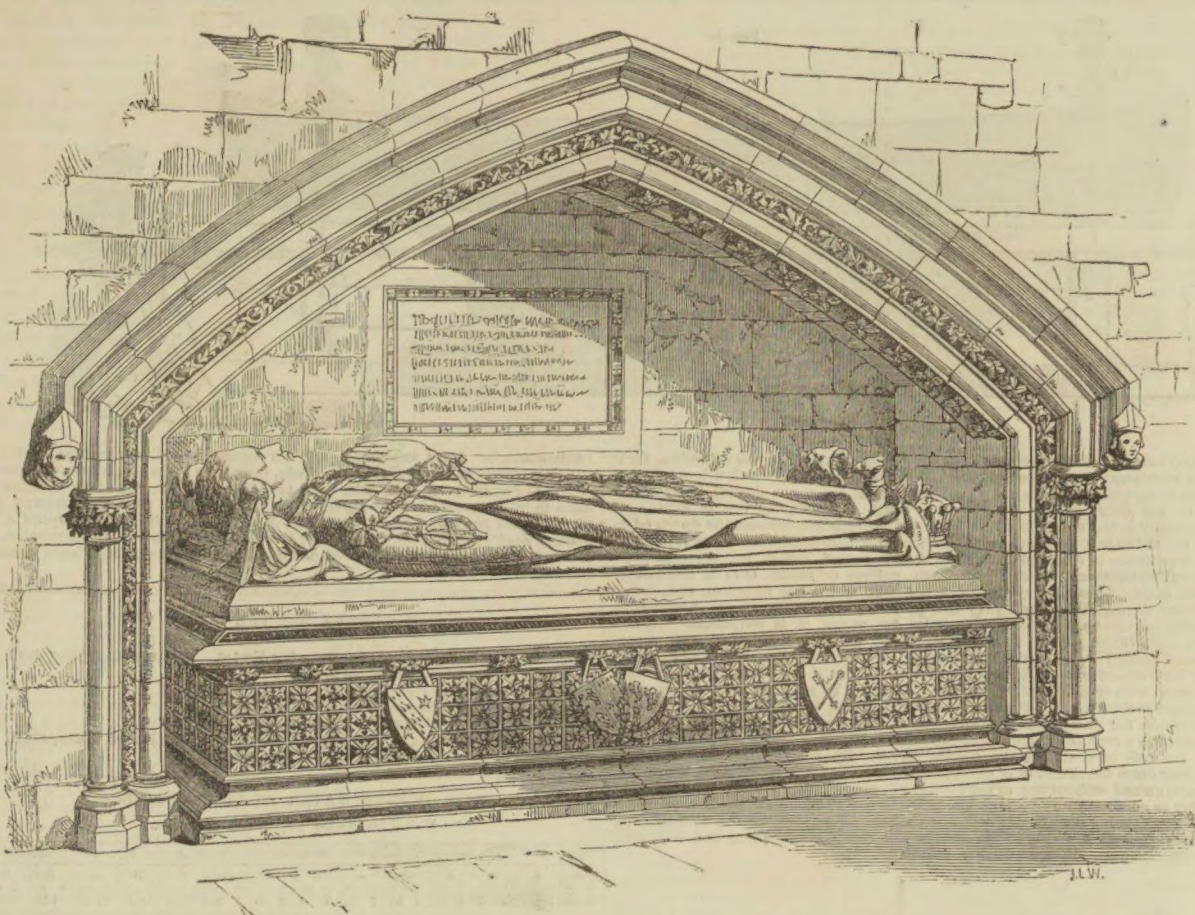


DR. REID'S SYSTEM OF LIGHTING THE NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS.

and fantastic Gothic forms. The white light now thrown into the House, in an æsthetic point, makes us regret the absence of the quaint monsters which were in the windows; indeed, the coloured windows are necessary to the style, and in the arrangement originally adopted, of throwing only sufficient light on the windows to show the full colours of the glass, the beautiful appearance of the House was much improved during the night sittings. Our daily contemporaries consider the new mode no improvement on the old as regards light or ventilation; and certainly, as detracting from the unity of the architectural embellishments, to say nothing of the fearful amount of heat which must be generated in very close proximity to the woodwork of the ceiling, the alterations are seriously to be regretted.

The total amount annually exported on works of arterial drainage in Ireland, and which have been finished, is £165,104 9s. 2d., the amount of the original estimate being £111,646 2s. 4d. The amount actually expended to the 30th of September last on unfinished works was £1,210,455 11s., the original estimate being £1,179,374 12s. 11d. The amount which will be required for the completion of those works is £683,794 8s. 3d. The area by original survey over which those drainage improvements are to be made is 288,253 statute acres, but by the revised survey 214,579 acres.

The Berlin journals mention a trial of two brothers named Tomaschek, which took place on the 15th, before one of the tribunals of that capital. The brothers were charged with conspiracy and forgery, to procure amounts insured in the London Globe Insurance Office, and the insurance office in Copenhagen, by pretending the death and funeral of Franz, one of the brothers. A coffin, filled with straw and a sleeve-board, was actually buried at Berlin, in 1848, Anton, the second brother, following it to the grave as chief mourner. The medical certificates of death were forgeries; those of the burial were given by the clergyman in full belief that a body had been interred. On these certificates the insurance money was paid.



MONUMENT TO THE LATE EARL OF POWIS, K.G., IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WELCHPOOL.

MONUMENT TO THE LATE EARL OF POWIS, K.G.

THIS beautiful Memorial has just been completed by Mr. Richardson, the sculptor, from a chaste design by Mr. G. G. Scott, architect. It has been erected in St. Mary's Church, Welchpool, by order of the Countess of Powis. It is in alabaster, a material admirably suited for the purpose, but disused for the last two or three centuries.

The figure represents the Earl recumbent in the Garter robes, the hands in prayer, angels at the head, and at the feet the Clive and Herbert supporters and coronet. It rests on a richly diapered table, with shields of arms, and a raised brass inscription, with ruby ground, by Waller. A verse in Lombardic characters, from the 31st Psalm, is incised on the plinth of the effigy. The likeness, which is excellent, was obtained from Mr. Grant's fine portrait at Walcot, and a sketch by Sir George Hayter, but without the aid of a profile. The Garter robes and other details have been carefully studied. The Monument has been placed in its arch of Caen stone, beautifully carved by Phillips, on the north wall of the chancel in St. Mary's Church, Welchpool, immediately under Powis Castle. The effect of the whole together is magnificent.

The alabaster, weighing from two to three tons, was obtained from the Chelleston quarry, near Derby, and Tauld, between Hanbury and Tutbury, where alabaster has been worked time out of mind; not only, of late, for pottery and conversion into plaster, but for decorative and sculptural uses. So important a branch of art industry was this in the middle ages, that it oftentimes formed an export trade; for one instance of which see "Rymer," vol. 8, p. 510, where King Henry IV. grants a passport to three English workmen to convey their alabaster tomb and effigy across the seas, and put it in Nantes Cathedral, where it remained until lately. It represented John IV., Duke of Brittany. The earliest examples, it is believed, are some Norman carved work in Tutbury Church, and a Crusader in Hanbury Church. There are many beautiful tombs of alabaster still existing in this country, more particularly in the midland counties. In the time of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth, Burton-on-Trent was famous for its "marblers in alabaster," as recorded by Leland and Camden. The material seems to have got out of use for monuments about the time of James I.; and Mr. Richardson, who is preparing a paper on the subject, conceives it is in some measure accounted for by the introduction of gunpowder into the pits in lieu of the saw and pick, whereby greater quantities were more readily obtained, but of small and unsound quality, and unfit for sculptural purposes. At Chelleston, while obtaining the Powis block, at a depth of 12 to 16 feet from the surface, were found old iron picks, an oaken ladder, a half-baked jug, and a finely sawn slab of alabaster, with other mediæval witnesses; and at Tauld not only are pits yielding every variety, but extinct pits are observable, and extend from Hanbury Church towards Tutbury. In an ancient survey of this

Royal property, the rental is given for these pits and the herbage at £5 6s. by the year, a considerable sum in those days.

At Acton, near Chelleston, in Derby, and other places, according to Middleton, were formerly other quarries which yielded the finest alabaster to be obtained in the country, though closed about his time.

ON THE LOSS OF LIFE AT SEA.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

12, Marlborough-hill, St. John's Wood, April 20.

THE value of a Journal of the character, and conducted with the ability and public spirit exhibited in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, is strikingly shown in the ready opportunity it offers for setting forth plans to serve objects of public importance.

In the sight of every humane person, there can scarcely be an object of greater importance to a country possessing an extensive marine, and involved in all its responsibilities, than one to which, of late, many of your columns have been considerably devoted.

The Legislature has found it to be necessary, and felt it to be a duty, to enact that every ship shall carry boats sound and capacious enough for holding, with due buoyancy, the whole of its company; but the enactment is a mere delusion so long as the means for suspending, lowering, and clearing off boats shall remain in their present defective state.

Not only on almost every occasion of wrecks do many of the boats prove unavailing from this cause, but fatal delay, loss of life, and injury to limbs often take place in getting landmen, and especially women and children, down into boats after they are lowered. In many instances of wrecks and collisions ships drag their boats down with them, and nearly all on board perish, although it is rare that more than ten minutes do not elapse between the moment of a ship's striking and her foundering. But the evil is not confined to wrecks alone; there is a much more frequently occurring, if less extensive, loss of life to sailors who fall overboard at sea, a large proportion of whom are drowned before boats can reach them.

It is true that the failure in part arises from want of practice in the crew, and of use in the apparatus: but the apparatus itself is essentially defective, to a degree against which no practice and no use could provide; and the question is, whether an apparatus may not be contrived which shall not only require no use to keep it in order, and little practice for using it, but which shall provide with certainty for a rapid descent and clearing off of boats in so secure a manner, that their complement may be safely lodged in them before they are lowered—a point of great importance in all cases, and indispensable where the time of salvation is limited to but a few minutes.

It is gratifying to notice the humane feeling which has moved so many persons to propose plans for preventing such disasters. At the same time, whatever facility of invention a person may possess, it cannot be exercised with complete success in any case compounded of many requirements, until these shall have been placed in due order before the mind.

Subjoined is a plan contrived with a view to simplicity, certainty of action, and cheapness. Both naval officers of experience and superior mechanicians have examined the apparatus with attention and given it their approval. No per-



ST. SEFULCHRE'S (ROUND) CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

NOTICE.—The Subscribers to the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS can have their Volumes Bound in the appropriate Covers, Gilt Edged, at 5s per Volume, by sending them carriage paid, with Post-office order payable to LEIGHTON, SON, and HODGE, 13, Shoe-lane, London.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.—The back Numbers of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS for 1850 and 1851 are now Reprinted, and may be obtained by order of all Booksellers and News-agents at the published price. The Numbers previous to 1850 can be had only in Parts or Volumes.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK.
The Laws of Health.—Webster's Royal Red Book.—The Career of Louis Napoleon.
MUSIC.—There are Deer in the Woods.—Oh, tell me not of Summer's glow.

NEXT WEEK WILL BE PUBLISHED

A MAY NUMBER

OF THE

ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

THREE SHEETS—ONE SHILLING!

Among the Engravings to appear in this Treble Number of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS are the following:—

MUSICAL SUPPLEMENT.—The Poetry by CHARLES MACKAY; the Symphonies and Accompaniments by Sir H. R. Bishop. "The Swallow and the Robin" (Two Illustrations); "Wild Flowers" (Two Illustrations); "Wine and Glory" (One Illustration); "Could we recall Departed Days" (One Illustration); "The Silvery Birch" (Two Illustrations).

Also, "The Last Shilling Day at the Crystal Palace" (two-page Engraving); Pic-Nic in the Time of Charles II., by F. Taylor. "L'Allegro and Il Penseroso," by Horsley. "He's Gone," by Dicksee. May in Town, by Leech. A May Scene, by Doyle. Cora: a May Legend of Somerset. "The Signal," &c. &c.

Sketches in the Port Phillip Gold Diggings.—Pictures from the Water-Colour Societies and Portland Gallery Exhibitions.—Paris Fashions for May.—And a variety of other Engravings.

Office, 198, Strand.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1852.

THE re-establishment of the French Empire is the prominent topic of the week. The speculators of Paris are betting upon the event at the Bourse and elsewhere, the odds being at present against the realisation of the project. Many circumstances, however, conspire to lend strength to the belief that the 10th of May—the day on which the powers of the President would have expired by the Constitution of 1848—has been fixed upon for a new *coup d'état*. There is to be a grand review upon that day, at which the National Guard is not to be present; and a host of minor arrangements have been made, all dependent upon the one issue—the Empire. It is evident that, as far as the President is concerned, he earnestly covets the Imperial purple; that he has from the beginning made it his policy to attain it, by fair means or by foul; that it is with him a calculation, a conviction, and a faith that he shall be Emperor; and that if he be deterred, either now or at any future time, from attempting the decisive step which is to fix the crown upon his brow, it will not be from a consideration that he ought not, but that he may not, take it with safety. The people that surround him having so much more to gain by his success, and so much less to lose by his failure, urge him daily to dare all, and to emerge from the present provisional state of the grub Dictator into that of the full-fledged butterfly Emperor; but he himself, though more than willing, is for a while restrained by prudential considerations. Circumstances have recently come to light which will, no doubt, materially influence his decision. It appears that the late Prince Schwarzenberg, whose love of an iron despotism was so excessive that he could forgive Louis Napoleon all the flaws in his title, and all the questionable means by which he attained the supreme power, was not only favourably disposed to the assumption of the Imperial title, but actually addressed the Cabinets of St. Petersburg and Berlin, and urged the consent of these great powers to the proposed change as one that would be of advantage to the cause of order and stability in Europe. The Emperor of Russia and the King of Prussia did not, however, coincide in his opinion. The Emperor of Russia fairly and clearly stated, that if the French people chose to name Louis Napoleon Emperor for life, it was no business of his; but if Louis Napoleon chose, by a new *coup d'état*, to revive and establish an hereditary and imperial dynasty, he certainly should not acknowledge the assumption. The King of Prussia expressed the same determination. How far these serious facts may influence the conduct of Louis Napoleon time alone will show; but it is more than probable that they will not be without their weight in inducing him to temporise. He is at present undisputed master and lord of the French people, and his very enemies remain quiescent in the belief that he is a stop-gap—that he must last out his appointed time—and that he will give place, when events are ripe, to the greater man who is destined to overthrow him, and to restore the liberties of his outraged and oppressed country. But, as soon as he endeavours to convert the temporary into the permanent, to transform the autocratic President of a term of years into the hereditary Emperor, their hostility will take a more active shape. Besides, it has transpired that the President met with a most uncordial reception from the working men of the Faubourg St. Antoine, when a few days ago he miscalculated his popularity so far as to venture among them on his return from a visit to Vincennes. It is likely that this fact will also have its weight in inducing him to act warily.

A week ago the time seemed ripe for the Emperorship, but as the appointed day draws near the chances of the attempt seem to diminish. The army, it is true, seems full of confidence; but the same power that urges it, can restrain it. In the meantime there is a loan of from 200,000,000, to 300,000,000, on foot; and the final result will in no small degree depend on the views of the great capitalists, whether the President or the Emperor is more safely to be trusted with it.

If we may believe the multitudinous voice of Rumour, the fate of the Crystal Palace is sealed; and the most marvellous, the most novel, and, as many assert, the most beautiful, building in the world, is no longer to challenge our admiration. It seems somewhat incredible, however, that such should be the case. London without St. Paul's or the Tower, would almost cease to be London; and London without the Crystal Palace, would be almost as bare. A grace and a glory would, in this case, have departed, and Vandalism with a grim smile might say, "I did it." The elegance, beauty, magnitude, and convenience of the Building plead for it in vain. The minority who are leagued against it make its very merits the reason for its destruction. "Let it perish," they say, "for it is too beautiful to last. Let it die with its objects, and its memory will survive. It will become mythological in ceasing to be actual, and will rank with the enchanted halls of Aladdin, or with the Russian palace of ice, or with any other marvellous structure that exists only in the pages of romance." It is either too beautiful, or too good, or too large for the toleration of its foes; and if these are to carry the day, as Rumour emphatically asserts,

England, proud of her common sense, will offer the not very sensible spectacle of wantonly destroying that which two most celebrated and most civilised nations of the world, next to herself, most envy her the possession of. While Paris, ambitious of maintaining her ancient renown as the most beautiful capital in the world, fears that the character will no longer be deserved unless she have a Crystal Palace to justify it, and is seriously thinking of constructing a similar edifice; and while America, anxious not to be outdone by the "old country," is meditating whether she cannot have a better, or at all events as good, a palace as that which Paxton built, ours is to come down, and to be sold as broken glass and old iron! But may not Rumour be wrong? May it not have mistaken the apparent apathy of the public? and may not what is supposed to be apathy be simply the result of over-confidence or incredulity? The organ of destructiveness, of which the phrenologists tell us so much, is doubtless large in some individuals; but we are loth to believe in such a national development of the "bump" as the active or passive participation of the public in the demolition of this Building would prove.

We know it is argued that the Building is of no further use, that it would not pay to keep it up, and that, therefore, it is not destructiveness, but good policy, to pull it down. It cannot, however, be taken for granted that the argument is valid. It is by no means proved by the objectors that the Building could not be turned to the highest and best public uses in a variety of ways, or that means might not very easily be found for making it a self-sustaining institution, as well as a means of permanent gratification, advantage, and instruction to the people, not only of London, but of the whole kingdom. Whether it would be most advisable to make it a gigantic conservatory and museum of art and nature, or a perpetual exhibition of the skill and industry of the people of these islands; or whether it might not still more advantageously be applied to both, and many other purposes, we need not now take upon ourselves to decide, or even to inquire. We well know that those who cherish a foregone conclusion in their minds will not listen to reasons, however sound; and, indeed, in this as in other cases, the better the reason the more hateful it is to those who have predetermined not to be influenced by it. But it must be said that there has been a display of great unfairness on the subject. The manner in which the evidence of Sir Joseph Paxton has been perverted into an argument for the destruction of that which he so anxiously wished to preserve, is sufficient proof that the verdict destined to influence the fate of the Building was left to be delivered by its enemies. Yet, in a case of this kind, where delay cannot possibly do any harm, and where precipitation can do mischief that may be irreparable, we do hope that time will yet be granted. A more mature consideration of the subject is required. There is no necessity for haste in the destruction of anything but a wild beast, a venomous reptile, or a rag that bears infection or the plague. The most obstinate enemies of the Crystal Palace cannot allege any danger as likely to result from a little more delay in the gratification of their wishes.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.—The following appointments and preferments have recently been made:—*Canonry*: The Rev. J. D. Jefferson, to Osbaldwick, in York Cathedral. *Rectories*: The Rev. W. J. Jenkins, to Fillingham, near Lincoln; the Rev. George Gresley Perry, to Waddington, Lincolnshire; the Rev. C. Smith, to Boothby-Graffoe, Lincolnshire; the Rev. John Postle, to a fourth part of the rectory and a fourth part of the vicarage of Felmingham, Norfolk. *Vicarages*: The Rev. R. N. Cornwall, to Eynesford, Kent; the Rev. Robert Emaus Crawley, to Pottersbury, Northamptonshire; the Rev. C. J. Sterling, to Newton-on-Trent, near Lincoln.

TESTIMONIALS.—The following clergymen have recently received testimonials of esteem and regard:—The Rev. Joseph Wallis, from parishioners and friends at St. Andrew's, Plymouth, on his removal; the Rev. John George M'Leod, on his resigning the curacy of St. Peter's, Derby, from the parishioners; the Rev. G. W. Warr, of St. Saviour's, Liverpool, from the congregation; the Rev. W. C. Sharpe, curate of the parish, from the parishioners of St. Michael Coslany, in the city of Norwich.

The Earl of Shaftesbury has presented the Rev. James Jones Reynolds, B.A., curate of the parish of St. John the Baptist, Bristol, to the rectory of Shaftesbury St. Trinity, with St. Peter annexed, void by the resignation of the Rev. Thomas Stanton, clerk.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL.—The total receipts of the society from all sources during the year 1851 amounted to £147,476. On Friday week the monthly meeting was held at 79, Pall-Mall, when it was stated that the jubilee fund has now reached £43,000. The following sums were granted from that fund:—1. For the extension of the episcopate, £15,000; of which £3000 are to be applied towards the endowment of a bishopric in the island of Mauritius; 5000 towards a new see in the eastern part of the present diocese of Cape-town; and £5000 towards the endowment of a bishopric which shall include the island of Borneo. A conditional grant was also made towards the endowment of the bishopric of Sierra Leone, the fund for which is now nearly, if not quite, completed. 2. For the education of missionary candidates the amount of £2500 was granted in the following sums: viz. £2500 for the foundation of four Oriental scholarships at St. Augustine's Missionary College, Canterbury; and £1000 each to six colonial colleges, viz. St. John's and Poirina, in New Zealand; Trinity College, Toronto; Bishop's College, Lennoxville, in Canada; Woodlands, at the Cape of Good Hope; and St. Thomas's College, Ceylon. 3. The sum of £2000 was directed to be applied to the spiritual aid of emigrants. The sum of £1000 was granted in aid of the projected mission to West Africa from the West Indies. A large sum was also set apart for missionary purposes in the East Indies. General satisfaction was expressed at the above appropriation of the jubilee fund.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—On Saturday evening, the annual tea meeting of the subscribers to and members of this excellent society was held at St. Martin's Hall. This society was established at a public meeting held in May, 1849, for the purpose of affording to schoolmasters and mistresses, and teachers in Sunday and week-day schools, conducted upon the principles of the Established Church, an opportunity of making assurances suitable to their peculiar circumstances, and of uniting themselves more closely together by a new bond, as a company intent upon mutually providing for each other in times of need. The Rev. Richard Burgess, B.D., took the chair, and was supported by the Rev. T. Jackson, late principal of the Training College, Battersea; the Rev. D. Coleridge, principal of St. Mark's College, Chelsea, and several other clergymen. The proceedings were of a highly satisfactory character.

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION AT CORK.

The committee of this great national undertaking met again on Tuesday, at their rooms, Stephen's-green, Dublin. Lord Talbot de Malahide occupying the chair. The meeting was a numerous and highly influential one. Mr. Deane, the honorary secretary, read a letter from Mr. C. P. Roney, enclosing a cheque from Herbert Ingram, Esq., of London, for £10; also a cheque from Messrs. Briggs and Co., of Primrose-street, London, for £100, merchants, and the contractors for the supply of oil to many of the light houses, &c. both in England and Ireland; and a subscription of £5 from Mr. Charles Geach, M.P. He (Mr. Deane) had lately inspected the Exhibition building at Cork, and was completely surprised at the extent of the works already completed, and the magnificence of the building. It presented an uninterrupted view from the entrance to the end of the southern hall of 251 feet, independent of the transverse gallery, 320 feet long. Both halls to be lit by roof-lights of glass. The available area was 14,272 feet, and the wall space 12,341 feet; of this space no more than 3000 feet now remained for disposal, so numerous had been the applications for space. Mr. Deane then alluded to the large amount of subscriptions that had been received from every quarter; and said that it was evident from this, and the number of applications for space from various parts of Ireland, that the Exhibition would be, in every sense of the word, a great National Exhibition of Irish arts, manufactures, and materials.

The Electric Telegraph Company have just completed their Great Northern system of telegraph, *via* Peterborough, Lincoln, Newark, Doncaster, Boston, Gainsborough, Great Grimsby, and on to York, a distance of 220 miles, placing the agricultural district of the Lincolnshire Wolds in immediate communication with London, the West of England, and the North.

DEARTH OF LABOUR IN AUSTRALIA.—By a letter, dated the 27th December, from Portland Bay, district Port Phillip, it is reported that "the accounts from the mines continue so good that a very great scarcity of labour is being felt. Some people are left without more than one or two men in their establishments, who have been in the habit of employing thirty or forty. They have been obliged to put ten thousand instead of one thousand sheep in a flock; and, although these shifts may be made at this time of the year, though at great risk, from the bush fires, they will not answer in the winter time. Almost all the overseers in the country are gone, or are going; and this is the worst feature in it, that our most efficient men are those who are most likely to do well at the mines. The wool was shorn, but there was no means of getting it down the country, for want of bullock-drivers."

COURT AND HAUT TON.

THE COURT AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

The Queen and Prince Albert, with their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, the Princesses Alice, Helena, and Louisa, and Prince Arthur, and accompanied by his Serene Highness Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, left Windsor Castle at twenty minutes before three on Monday afternoon, and travelled by a special train on the Great Western Railway to London. At the Paddington station seven of the Queen's carriages were in readiness to convey her Majesty and Prince Albert and the Royal party to Buckingham Palace, a detachment of the 7th Hussars forming the escort. In the evening the Queen and Prince Albert, with Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, honoured the Princess' Theatre with their presence.

On Tuesday the Queen held a Court, at which the Right Hon. Sir Henry Bulwer, G.C.B., her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary to the Court of Tuscany, had an audience of her Majesty to take leave. On the same day the Queen paid a visit to the Duchess of Gloucester, at Gloucester House, and in the evening honoured the Royal Italian Opera with her presence.

On Wednesday her Majesty held her third levee this season. The French plays were honoured with a visit in the evening.

On Thursday her Majesty held a chapter of the most noble Order of the Bath.

The Queen will hold her second Drawingroom on Thursday next.

THE LEVEE.

Her Majesty held a levee at St. James's Palace, on Wednesday last. The Queen and the Prince arrived from Buckingham Palace at two o'clock, escorted by a detachment of the Life Guards, and were received by the great officers of state.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge and his Serene Highness Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg attended the levee. The Earl of Derby had an audience of the Queen.

The Queen wore a dress of grey moir antique silk, trimmed with black lace, grey ribbons, and white bugles. The petticoat was of white silk, trimmed with white tulle and white ribbons. Her Majesty wore round her head a wreath composed of blackberries and diamonds.

The diplomatic and general circle were both very fully attended, and the presentations were unusually numerous.

THE ORDER OF THE BATH.

Her Majesty held an investiture of the most honourable Order of the Bath on Thursday afternoon, at Buckingham Palace.

Lord Broughton had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him, and was invested with a riband and badge of a Knight Grand Cross (civil division) of the Bath.

The following Knights Grand Cross were afterwards severally introduced and respectively invested by her Majesty with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross (military division):—General Sir Peregrine Maitland, Admiral the Hon. Sir Thomas Bladen Capel, Lieut.-General Sir Alexander Woodford, Lieut.-General Sir Henry Frederick Bonverie, and Lieut.-General Sir John Burgoyne. These officers were not knighted, that honour having been already conferred upon them.

The following officers had the honour of Knighthood conferred upon them and were invested with the insignia of Knights Commanders (military division):—Major-General John Owen, Lieut.-General Thomas Downman, Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir Anthony Maitland, Lieut.-General Sir Archibald Maclean, Lieut.-General George Charles D'Aquilar, Lieutenant-General Henry Goldfinch, Lieutenant-General John Bell, Lieutenant-General George Brown, Rear-Admiral Phipps Hornby, Rear-Admiral William Fairbrother Carroil.

Admiral Sir Charles Ekins and Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Bullen were summoned to attend the investiture, as Knights Grand Cross, but were unable to be present.

His Royal Highness Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg left Buckingham Palace at eight o'clock on Thursday evening, on his return to the Continent.

The marriage of the Duchess of Sutherland's daughter, Lady Constance Leveson Gower, with Earl Grosvenor, is definitely fixed to take place on Wednesday next.

THE MAGELLAN PIKES.—Great excitement—according to the latest accounts from Chili (South America)—prevailed at Valparaiso, in consequence of the arrival of the *Virago* (her Britannic Majesty's steamer) and Chilean brig of war *Meteor*, accompanying the American schooner barque *Florida*, and British brig *Eliza Cornish*, with 353 of the revolutionists of the Magellan Straits. They all landed on the 24th of February. Cambiaso, the murderous leader, being heavily ironed, was conducted in a *birloche* (cab), but looked very cool, and amused himself by twirling his moustache, and nodding to any chance acquaintance in the crowd. Captain Talbot, of the *Eliza Cornish*, Mr. Cornish, passenger, and son of the vessel's owner, and Mr. Shaw, of the *Florida*, and eight others (including one woman), were all shot in cold blood, without any apparent cause, but just to satisfy Cambiaso's craving for blood. As soon as the news reached Valparaiso of the massacre on board these vessels, a despatch was sent to Commodore M'Cauley, at Callao, then on his way to Panama, who immediately returned to the former port with the United States frigate *Raritan*. These vessels have been employed to convey the rebel troops from Valparaiso to Monte Video. When the *Virago* passed through the straits on her way from England to the Pacific, Cambiaso formed the plan of taking her, by inviting the officers to a banquet on shore, then giving them poisoned drinks, and sending poisoned provisions on board. Fortunately, the apothecary of the colony, to his honour and credit, positively refused to be a party to such an infamous affair, and the threat of being shot therefore did not shake him. Ere this Cambiaso and his minions have probably received their deserts.

FIRE AT SHEPTON MALLET.—Between one and two o'clock on Wednesday morning, the silk-throwing and velvet factory of Messrs. Hardisty, of Shepton Mallet, was discovered to be on fire; and in less than 20 minutes the roof fell in, and the whole of the immense building was in flames. The engines of the town were quickly on the spot; but to save the factory was hopeless, and their efforts were directed to the neighbouring houses, five of which were destroyed. The origin of the fire is not known. Messrs. Hardisty are partially insured. The damage sustained is estimated at between £8000 and £12,000.

THE BRAZILS.—The French Government has received from the officer in command of the naval station of Brazil and La Plata, despatches to the 5th of March. At that date Admiral Le Prédour had just placed on board ship for France the expeditionary troops, whose presence was no longer required in that part of the world. The report of the Admiral speaks in high terms of the conduct of the marines and crews under his command. Landed at Buenos Ayres after the battle which terminated the war, and at a moment when the city was overrun by bands of armed men, they contributed powerfully to maintain order and protect property. It was owing to their firm attitude, the report says, that the bank and custom-house stores were preserved from pillage.

GOLD FROM AUSTRALIA.—The vessel *Blackfriar*, which has just arrived in the London Docks from Sydney, has brought eight packages of gold addressed, and also 22 packages of gold consigned to order. The ship *Alert*, which has also arrived in the London Docks from the same place, has brought the large quantity of 55 packages of gold dust addressed, and also 19 boxes of gold dust consigned to order. The ship *Melbourne*, from Port Phillip, has brought 37 boxes of gold dust addressed to different parties, and also 10 boxes, and 44 other packages of gold dust consigned to order.

MADemoiselle JOHANNA WAGNER.—In refutation of what has been termed "sharp practice" in Mdlle. Wagner's transactions with the director of her Majesty's Theatre, Herr Albert Wagner, father of the singer, has published a letter, the gist of which may be briefly stated. Herr Wagner declares that the director of the Royal Italian Opera, as early as 1850, made several propositions to his daughter, Mdlle. Wagner, which her Continental engagements preventing her from accepting, and that, in the autumn of last year, these propositions were renewed; but that, owing to circumstances, wholly uninteresting to the public, Mdlle. Wagner was induced to give the preference to Her Majesty's Theatre, with the director of which establishment she signed a treaty for the present season. Herr Wagner further states that, in the course of last month, his daughter received several letters from the director of the Royal Italian Opera, to which, considering herself bound to the other theatre, she did not reply. An important stipulation, however, in the engagement with Her Majesty's Theatre, which was to have been carried out on the 5th of March, not having been fulfilled, Mdlle. Wagner, on the 5th of the present month, regarding the old contract as null and void, concluded a new one with the director of the Royal Italian Opera.—*Times*.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

"I MARTIRI," LYRIC TRAGEDY, IN FOUR ACTS;

THE MUSIC BY DONIZETTI, THE LIBRETTO BY SCRIBE, AND THE ITALIAN ADAPTATION BY MAGGIORI.

Four illustrious names are associated with the opera of "The Martyrs," produced with such signal success on Tuesday night, at Covent-garden, in presence of her Majesty and Prince Albert, Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, and a large assemblage of fashionable, literary, and artistic celebrities, amongst whom must be specified as the "lion" of the evening—the "observed of all observers"—Mdlle. Johanna Wagner, who was in a private box with her father. The four names are Pierre Gardeille, Adolphe Nourrit, Scribe, and Donizetti. It was Corneille who wrote "Polyeucte, Martyr," in 1640: it was Nourrit, the celebrated French tenor, who suggested the tragedy to Donizetti as the subject for an opera at the San Carlo, in Naples, in 1839; but on the eve of representation the authorities prohibited the performance of "Polyeucte" as profane; and poor Nourrit, the night after the prohibition, having been hissed whilst he was singing, returned to his domicile, and committed suicide by throwing himself out of the window. Curiously enough, Donizetti, who had written *Lucia* for Duprez, the rival tenor who drove Nourrit from Paris in despair, afterwards adapted "Polyeucte" for the Grand Opéra in Paris, with the aid of Scribe, the Duprez; and on the 10th of April, 1840, "Les Martyrs" was brought out at the Académie

Royale de Musique, M^{me}. Dorus Gras being *Pauline*; M. Massol, *Sévère*, the Roman Proconsul; M. Derivis, *Félix*, the Governor of Armenia; M. Serda, *Calisthenes*, the priest of Jupiter; and M. Wartel, *Nérarque*, the friend of *Polyeucte*. Although the opera was rapturously received, it did not remain in the *répertoire*, the connoisseurs only arriving to hear the third act, and quitting the theatre before the fourth act, to the annoyance of Duprez. The judgment of the Parisian amateurs was, however, quite accurate. The first, second, and fourth acts contain little that will fix the attention of musicians, but the third act has some sublime situations, both dramatic and musical. Schlegel's analysis of Corneille's tragedy is so admirable, that we willingly transfer it here as a key to the *libretto*. In "*Polyeucte*," Christian sentiments are not unworthily expressed; yet we find in it more superstitious reverence than fervent enthusiasm for religion; the wonders of grace are rather affirmed than embraced by a mysterious illumination. Both the tone and the situations in the first act incline greatly, as Voltaire observes, to "comedy." A woman who, in obedience to her father, has married against her inclinations, and who declares, both to her lover (who returns when too late) and to her husband, that "she still retains her first love, but that she will keep within the bounds of virtue," a vulgar and selfish father, who is sorry that he has not chosen for his son-in-law the first suitor, now become the favourite of the Emperor—all this promises no very high tragic determinations. Scribe has rigidly adhered to the tragedy, putting in action the events which are only described by Corneille. In the first act there is the conversion of *Polyeucte* (Tamberlik) by *Narcus* (Stigelli); in the second there is the arrival of *Severus* (Ronconi), with his discovery that his early love, *Pauline* (Madame Julienne), is united to *Polyeucte*; in the third act there is the condemnation of *Narcus*, the avowal of *Polyeucte* that he is also a Christian, and his condemnation by his father-in-law, *Félix*; and in the last act *Pauline* accepts the faith of her husband, and the martyrdom of the Christians takes place, despite of the noble efforts of *Severus* to save them from the wrath of the High Priest of Jupiter (Polonini).

The great defect in the music of Donizetti for the "*Martiri*" is, that he has not grappled with, and embodied, the antagonistic passions of the Christians and Heathens. The opera is, throughout, of one colour, and lacks contrast. In the choruses to Proserpine and to Jupiter the mode of treatment scarcely differs from that adopted to depict the holy rites of Christianity. The Italian composer has sought to imitate Meyerbeer, but has failed to attain the individuality of character so wonderfully observed in the "*Huguenots*," of which the "*Martiri*" is but a faint copy. Mr. Costa has made some wholesale but very necessary cuts in the score, and it will be found expedient to excise still more, particularly the *divertissement* in the second act. The omission of the overture, in which the novel effect of a chorale sung behind the curtain was introduced, is not at all to be regretted. Donizetti took especial pains with the orchestration, but an overture was beyond his grasp. The most effective piece in the first act was the trio in the finale, in six-eight time, "*Ah! se tu m'ami*," beautifully sung by M^{me}. Julienne, Stigelli, and Tamberlik. In the second act, M^{me}. Julienne made a good impression by her singing of the polacca, "*Perché di stolti*," and Ronconi, who has the melodious gem of the opera, a romance, "*Amor de miel prim' anni*," lighted the auditory, but the finale went off heavily. In the third act, attention was awakened by the duo between M^{me}. Julienne and Ronconi, "*Approdando à questa riva*," beautifully instrumented. Then came the tender air, in six-eight time, "*Supremo oggetto*," exquisitely sung by Tamberlik, in the cabaletta of which, "*Si, Andrò nel loro tempio*," he took the house by storm, being the announcement of *Polyeucte's* resolve to overthrow the Pagan idols. In the encore he took the C sharp in alt with thrilling effect. The finale of the third act excited the enthusiasm of the house to the highest pitch. The scene is in the Temple of Jupiter, and begins with a heathen ceremony of the immolation of a victim. *Narcus* is condemned, and *Polyeucte* avows that he is of the same creed. A magnificently-voiced *sestet*, the themes of which will remind the hearer of the "*Lucia*," was next superbly sung by M^{me}. Julienne, Tamberlik, Stigelli, Ronconi, Polonini, and Marini, which was rapturously redemanded. After *Polyeucte* had broken the sacred vases, the crescendos in the finale were climax upon climax, the amazingly-powerful voices of Madame Julienne and Tamberlik being heard above the combined choral and orchestral masses with electrifying effect. The curtain fell amidst a storm of cheering; and after the *artistes* had been recalled the presence of Costa was imperiously exacted. In point of conception and execution, this *finale* may take place with the finest Royal Italian Opera lyric displays. In the last act, the duet in the prison scene between Madame Julienne and Tamberlik was another triumph for the *artistes*; but the *dénouement* of the martyrdom did not move the sympathies in the manner intended by Corneille and Scribe.

Madame Julienne is a native of Rouen, and was a pupil of the same master as Pontier, the cooper tenor. She has been the *prima donna* of the Grand Opera in Paris, at which theatre her powerful soprano told amazingly in these works



M^{lle}. JOHANNA WAGNER.

MADemoiselle JOHANNA WAGNER.

This celebrated vocalist is the niece of Richard Wagner, the Chapel-master of Dresden, whom Liszt, in a recent pamphlet, pronounces to be the greatest composer of the age. The early days of Johanna Wagner were passed at Würzburg, in Bavaria, her parents being engaged at the theatre. As a child she was selected to represent the good spirit in the fairy spectacles, her declamatory powers being remarkable. At fifteen years of age she made a successful *début* in *Abigail*, in the comic piece, "*Le Verre d'Eau*," at the theatre of Ballenstädt. She subsequently appeared as *Preciosa* and *Esmeralda*, and made a great sensation in the part of *Cordelia*, in "*King Lear*." At this epoch of her career it was remarked that her style was distinguished as much for juvenile grace as tragic energy. Her original destiny was fixed for the drama; but as her parents, who had a reputation as teachers of singing, perceived that she had a good voice, she was taught the character of the *Page* in Meyerbeer's "*Huguenots*." Her organ, however, daily increasing in compass and power, she was allotted the part of *Caterina*, in Halévy's "*Reine de Chypre*," and the striking success she met with decided M^{lle}. Wagner to quit definitively the legitimate drama for opera. Her uncle strongly urged her to visit Dresden; but before she went to that city she visited Paris with her father, and there took lessons for six months of Manuel Garcia, the brother of Viardot and Malibran, and the master of Jenny Lind. On the arrival of M^{lle}. Wagner at Dresden, she was engaged for five years at the theatre; and from this time she took the line followed by Madame Schroder Devrient, although without any servile imitation of the style of that eminent *artiste*. In *Agatha*, in Weber's "*Der Freyschütz*," and in Beethoven's "*Fidelio*," she acquired great fame. Her next engagement, owing to political events having affected the Dresden theatre, was at Hamburg; and she was the first singer in Germany who undertook the part of *Fides* in Meyerbeer's "*Prophète*." It was her delineation of the character which spread her name throughout Germany. She afterwards sang in Vienna and Berlin with signal success. In the last-mentioned capital being the successor of M^{me}. Viardot in *Fides*. The result was, that the Royal Intendant of the Berlin Opera-house entered into an engagement with M^{lle}. Johanna Wagner for ten years, on terms far beyond those ever before granted to any *prima donna* in Germany. In her contract, leave of absence for six months during the year was reserved for the young and gifted *artiste*.

The *répertoire* of M^{lle}. Wagner is rich and varied; and, owing to her genius, the masterpieces of Glück and of Spontini have been most successfully revived at Berlin. *Iphigénie* (en Tauride) and *Clytemnestre* (en Aulide), and the *Grand Priestess* in the "*Vestale*," have been highly popular. Her *Alice* in "*Robert le Diable*," *Valentina* in the "*Huguenots*," and *Fides* in the "*Prophète*," have displayed her supremacy in Meyerbeer's operas. Her *Eglantine* in Weber's "*Euryanthe*" was her farewell part at Berlin, on the 18th of last month. In the revival of Spontini's "*Olympia*" she was the *Statira*, surpassing, according to the German critics, the celebrated Milder, who was the original representative. Relistab, the eloquent critic of Berlin, writes of her *Statira*, "*In passion she is a Medusa, in imperious command a Juno, and in pathos a Niobe*."

M^{lle}. Wagner does not confine her line of characters to the classic models. Her *Norma*, *Lucresia Borgia*, and *Romeo*, in Bellini's works, have created as great a sensation in Germany as her *Fides*, *Fidelio*, *Statira*, *Alice*, *Valentina*, &c. Her *Dona Anna* in "*Don Giovanni*," and *Odette* in Halévy's "*Charles VI.*" show the versatility of her lyric capabilities.

M^{lle}. Wagner, whilst she has acquired within such a brief period her artistic fame, seems to have inspired her admirers in Germany with the highest respect for her personal qualities. When she quitted Hamburg, in the spring of last year, for her engagement at Berlin, there was a grand ceremonial at the Tonhalle: she was crowned in public, and the population accompanied her to the railroad, greeting her with prolonged acclamations.

Like Jenny Lind, M^{lle}. Johanna Wagner has come to this country with two engagements: Her Majesty's Theatre and the Royal Italian Opera have claimed her services in their advertisements. In the prospectus of the former theatre she was duly announced; but, on the 8th instant, she was positively announced by the Royal Italian Opera. This notification was followed by a rejoinder from Her Majesty's Theatre, as follows:—"It is respectfully announced that the talent of M^{lle}. Wagner is secured exclusively for Her Majesty's Theatre, by an engagement dated the 9th of November last, and signed by that celebrated *artiste* and also by her father, Mr. Albert Wagner." On Monday last M^{lle}. Wagner, however, arrived in town with her father, accompanied by Mr. Gye, who had met them at Cologne, Mr. Lumley and Mr. Mitchell having travelled in the same train with the *prima donna* from Hamburg. It is intimated that a court of law will have to decide on the claims of Mr. Lumley for damages, as M^{lle}. Wagner will make her *début* at the Royal Italian Opera this evening in *Fides*.

requiring more than ordinary physical power. The quality of her organ and her style are essentially French: she possesses immense energy. Madame Julienne, whose married name is Dejean, must not be confounded with M^{lle}. Julienne, of Brussels, or with Madame Julian (Van Gelder), known at Her Majesty's Theatre as Madame Giuliani.

With Madame Julienne and Tamberlik, who is now the greatest of dramatic tenors, with Ronconi's fine taste and artistic judgment in the insignificant part of *Severus*, and with Marini's majestic voice when it is in tune, "*I Martiri*" will be a very useful, if not a very prominent work in the *répertoire*. It was given for the second time on the extra night, on Thursday. The pageantry of the third Christian era, under the Emperor Decius, is most gorgeously depicted; the procession in the second act, with the entrance of *Severus*, being one of the richest spectacles ever witnessed.

A new tenor of promise, Signor Galvani, made his *début* last Saturday night in "*Sonnambula*," *Amina* being charmingly sustained by M^{me}. Castellan.

M^{lle}. Wagner is to make her *début* this evening in the "*Prophète*," in which Mario and Formès will re-appear for the first time this season.



SCENE FROM DONIZETTI'S OPERA "*I MARTIRI*," AT THE ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.—PROCESSION IN THE FORUM.



CAPT. KELLETT ("RESOLUTE"), C.B.,—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY KILBURN. CAPT. SIR E. BELCHER, C.B., COMMANDER OF THE EXPEDITION.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY BEARD. CAPT. PULLEN ("NORTH STAR").—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY BEARD.

THE ARCTIC SEARCHING SQUADRON.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

PARLIAMENTARY PORTRAITS.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN PAKINGTON, BART., M.P. FOR DROITWICH, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

SIR JOHN PAKINGTON, second son of William Russell, of Powick Court, Worcester, by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Herbert Perrot Pakington, Bart., of Westwood Park, Worcester, was born at Powick Court, February 20, 1799. He was sent to Eton when twelve years of age, and subsequently entered Oriel College, Oxford, where amongst his contemporaries

western division of the county, in opposition to Captain Winnington, by whom he was defeated. But at the general election, on the accession of her present Majesty, in 1837, Mr. Barneby was returned for East Worcester, and Mr. Pakington for Droitwich. His first speech in Parliament was in the following session, on the Canada Clergy Reserves Bill. His previous visit to America enabled him to speak from his own observation, and he subsequently received several complimentary addresses from Canada, both in his speech on that occasion and the part he took in the debates on the affairs of Canada. Following up the same course, he afterwards moved for a committee, which he obtained, and of which he was appointed chairman, to inquire into the state of Newfoundland. The new constitution for the island was framed in accordance with the suggestions of the committee, and in the debates upon the measure Mr. Pakington took a leading part, and was subsequently chairman of a committee appointed to inquire into the state of the West Indies, in connexion with the cultivation of sugar, and took an active part in debates on West Indian distress. But it is not only to these colonial questions that Mr. Pakington has given attention in Parliament. He carried a bill to regulate the election of coroners; one for the regulation of beer-houses; and an act for the reformation of juvenile offenders. He brought forward a measure, in which he was defeated, for the discouragement of bribery at elections. He was chairman of the committee on turnpike trusts; was an active member of the committee on prison discipline; and, both in debate and committees, in 1850 and 1851, opposed the various

In 1822 the right hon. Baronet married Mary, daughter of Moreton Aglionby Slaney, Esq., of Shifnal, Salop. She died January, 1843, leaving a son, John Slaney, born 1826, married, 1847, to Diana, daughter of George 4th Earl of Glasgow.

In 1844 Sir John married, secondly, Augusta, third daughter of George Murray, Bishop of Rochester. She died in 1848, leaving a son, Herbert Perrott Murray, born February 1848; and in 1851 Sir John married, thirdly, Augusta Anne, widow of Colonel Davies, of Elmley Castle late M.P. for Worcester.

Our Portrait is from a Daguerrotypes by Claudet.

THE EARL OF DESART, UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

JOHN OTWAY O'CONNOR CUFFE, third Earl of Desart, son of the second Earl, by Catherine, eldest daughter of Maurice Nugent O'Connor of Mount Pleasant, King's County, was born at Desart House, county Kilkenny, October 12th, 1818. In 1820 he succeeded his father in the peerage. He graduated at Christ Church, Oxford, in 1838, and until the end of 1841 spent almost the entire time at sea in his own yacht.

At the general election in 1842, jointly with Mr. Thomas Gladstone and in opposition to Messrs. Gisborne and Moffatt, he contested Ipswich, but was unseated on petition. In 1846 he was elected a representative Peer of Ireland. Since he took his seat in 1847 his Lordship has spoken frequently in debates on Irish affairs.

In the session of 1850 he supported the Earl of Stradbroke's amendment to the Address to the throne, and which referred to "distress amongst cultivators of the soil, especially in Ireland, aggravated by the pressure of local taxation." The Earl of Desart urged that agricultural distress was general, that in Ireland it was severest, because there the people had less capital to bear up against the heavy restrictions imposed upon them. In the Royal speech the distress of an interest which their forefathers were wont to consider the great and vital interest of the country, and upon which all the others rested, was cloaked over by reference to the prosperity of manufacturers, and even their prosperity he believed to be uncertain and ephemeral. This was the first year that in certain counties in Ireland the land-



THE RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, BART., SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES. FROM A DAGUERROTYPES BY CLAUDET.

were Sir Charles Wood, Sir George Grey, Sir Thomas Freemantle, and the present Bishop of Salisbury. Having lost his father and elder brother (William Herbert), he succeeded to the property of his maternal uncle, Sir John Pakington, Bart., who died in 1830, and, assuming the name and arms of Pakington, he left Powick Court and took up his residence at Westwood Park.

At the general election on the Reform Bill, in 1831, Sir John, then Mr. Pakington, was invited to become a candidate in the Reform interest for the county of Worcester; but he refused, and made his first appearance in public life as chairman of the committee of Colonel the Hon. H. B. Lygon, a Conservative, and whom he proposed at the hustings in a speech in opposition to Reform.

On the first general election after the Reform Bill, and which took place in the winter of 1832-33, he came forward as a Conservative candidate, in opposition to Thomas Henry Cook, Esq., and Colonel Russell, and was defeated by a majority of 600. In the same year he was appointed Deputy-Lieutenant of Worcestershire; and in the following summer, whilst on a tour in America, a vacancy by the death of Lord Foley occurring in the western division of the county, he was put in nomination during his absence, and was beaten by but a small majority. In the summer of 1834, in accordance with the general desire of the magistrates of the county, he consented to fill the vacancy in the chair of Quarter Sessions occasioned by the retirement of Sir Christopher Smith, Bart., and he has ever since continued to discharge the duties of that position; how much to the satisfaction of his brother magistrates may be judged from the fact that last year they paid him the compliment of requesting him to sit to Sir John Watson Gordon for a full-length portrait, to be placed in the County Hall, "as a mark of their approbation of the manner in which he had discharged the duties of the chair of Quarter Sessions for seventeen years."

At the general election under the short Conservative Administration of Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Pakington exerted his influence at Droitwich in favour of the late John Barneby, Esq., and who was returned by a majority of three, whilst he himself again unsuccessfully contested the

measures for the transfer of financial powers of county justices to county boards, proposed to be appointed for the purpose. He supported the Government of Sir R. Peel up to the proposal of his measure for the abolition of the Corn-Laws, and to which he gave his most strenuous opposition. But notwithstanding his adverse vote upon the Corn Bill, Sir R. Peel, as a reward for his former support, recommended him to her Majesty for the honour of a Baronetcy, and the title was conferred upon him in 1846, the original title having become extinct at the death of Sir John, of Westwood Park, in 1830.

From the period of the passing of the bill for the abolition of the Corn-Laws, Sir John Pakington did not offer any active opposition to Free-trade, considering that the measure should be allowed a fair period of trial.

Sir John had given notice of a motion for the present session to prevent the further reduction of the Sugar Duties; and on the construction of the present Ministry hereceived the appointment of Secretary of State for the Colonies.



THE EARL OF DESART, UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES. FROM A DAGUERROTYPES BY CLAUDET.

lords had been unable to get in their rents—the rates of four or five shillings in the pound took everything—all classes, the landlords, labourers, and tenants, were fast progressing to utter annihilation and ruin—and there was more distress in that country by the legislation of man than by the visitation of Providence. It was said, improve your farming—invest more capital in the land. He was sick of the cry “invest more capital in the land;” capital would find its own level, and investments be made where there was the most profitable return. He did not place much reliance upon statistics, but he found that the agricultural and landed interests far exceeded in number and value the manufacturing interests; and he did not think an interest of such vast importance should be sacrificed to a few. As a proof that manufacturing prosperity was not dependent on low prices, he showed an increased import of cotton in 1838, though in that year wheat had averaged 64s., and some was taken out of bond even at 70s. Under Free Trade manufacturers could send out their goods so cheap as to command markets abroad, although at prices barely remunerating them; but such exports, however, might be stopped by glut or hostile tariffs, a system which would add to the revenue of foreigners, and bring down prices at home to a scale unremunerative to manufacturers, and crushing to the labourers; or we might be compelled to pay for foreign produce in bullion, leaving our mills idle and operatives starving, and enabling foreigners with raised prices at home, owing to the influx of our bullion, doubly to profit by the unnatural cheapness of our productions. It is said that the landed interest sought a war of classes; he deprecated any such objects, it was the men who, for their own selfish ends, and by illegal combinations, attacked the other interests of the country, who had sought such ends, and he looked to a restoration of the system of Protection to enable England to maintain the rank she had held among the nations of the earth.

In the same session his Lordship moved a resolution condemnatory of the system of out-door relief in Ireland, and subsequently an amendment on the Irish Franchise Bill, raising the qualification to £15, which he carried on a division against the Government, and on which he again divided the House when the bill was returned from the Commons, with a compromise of £12, but on which last division he was defeated.

His Lordship married, in 1842, Elizabeth Lucy, third daughter of the first Earl Cawdor, a Lady of the Bedchamber to the Queen. Our Portrait is from a Daguerreotype by Claudet.

THE ARCTIC SEARCHING EXPEDITION.

We resume our record of the departure of Sir Edward Belcher's Expedition in search of Sir John Franklin.

On Saturday morning, the *North Star*, Commander Pullen, left Woolwich, towed by the *Adder* steam-vessel, and arrived at Greenhithe about two o'clock p.m., where the whole of the vessels of the Expedition were stationed to have their compasses adjusted by Captain Johnson.

By desire of the naval authorities, Mr. Watkins, manager of Mr. Beard's photographic establishment, sent one of the operators to Greenhithe during the day, for the purpose of taking portraits of the officers of the Expedition, and the following had their portraits taken on the deck of the *Assistance*, under highly favourable circumstances, by the photographic process, the sun shining with unclouded brilliancy:—Captain Sir Edward Belcher, C.B., Commander of the Expedition; Commander George H. Richards, Lieutenant Walter W. May, Lieutenant John P. Cheyne, Master John F. Loney, Surgeon David Lyall, M.D., Clerk-in-Charge James Lewis, and Midshipmen Fynn and Groves. The officers of the *Resolute*, the *North Star*, the *Intrepid*, and the *Pioneer* were also taken by the photographic process previous to their departure.

On Monday morning the Duke of Northumberland, First Lord of the Admiralty; Rear-Admiral Philipps Hornby, Commodore Sir Thomas Herbert, and Captain Alexander Milne, Lords of the Admiralty; Captain Sir Baldwin W. Walker, Surveyor of the Navy; and Captain Hon. Frederick T. Pelham, private secretary to the First Lord, left London by the ten o'clock down-train of the North Kent Railway for Greenhithe, and on their arrival, at four minutes before eleven, were received by Captain Sir Edward Belcher, C.B., Commander of the Arctic Expedition, who conducted their Lordships to Greenhithe Pier, and thence in the barge of the *Figard*, flag-ship at Woolwich, on board the *Assistance* flag-ship of the Arctic squadron. Their Lordships were received by the officers, and the crew were mustered on deck, and every one of them passed before their Lordships, who appeared much pleased with their general robust and healthy appearance. After going below to witness the arrangements for the comfort of the officers and the crew, with which the Board of Admiralty appeared highly satisfied, they left the barge of the *Figard*, accompanied by Sir Edward Belcher, and went on board the *Resolute*, Captain Kellett, C.B., where they were received by that gallant officer and the officers of the ship. The crew were mustered, and the ship inspected in a similar manner as on board the *Assistance*. The *Intrepid*, Commander McClintock, and the *Pioneer*, Lieutenant-Commander Osborn, the two screw-steamers, and the *North Star*, Commander Pullen, were also visited by their Lordships. After inspecting them the Board of Admiralty landed at Greenhithe-pier, and returned by the half-past one o'clock up-train from Greenhithe to London.

In the afternoon the Prince of Camille arrived, and inspected the three vessels. During the day, Captain Washington, R.N., visited the whole of the vessels of the squadron, having brought down a box for the commanding officer of each. The contents of the boxes were six dozen of dolls, dressed by the ladies of Woolwich, and intended as presents for the Esquimaux. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean have, with great liberality and kindness, sent to the Arctic ships a quantity of theatrical dresses for the use of the theatre, which has always proved such a fertile and successful source of amusement in previous expeditions.

The Admiralty ordered a calotype apparatus for the Arctic ships, the construction of which has been superintended by Mr. Kilburn, of Regent-street. Dr. Domville, of the *Resolute*, takes charge of the instrument.

A number of ladies have presented Captain Sir Edward Belcher with 22 handsome silk flags, and a number of work-d articles for the comfort of the officers. On Tuesday, the whole of the ships of the squadron were paid in advance.

On Wednesday, the vessels of the squadron started from Greenhithe at a quarter before five o'clock a.m., and about twelve at noon were brought up at anchor about twenty miles below Gravesend, for the purpose of communicating with the commanding officers of the *Basilik* and *Desperate* steamers, and relieving the steam-tugs of their previous duty.

The *Monkey* steam-vessel left Woolwich on Wednesday evening with duplicate sets of sails for the screw-steamers of the Arctic Expedition, to render them doubly supplied in that necessary description of stores, as these vessels will be most actively employed even when their coals are all consumed. The decks of the whole of the vessels were piled up in casks, procured by direction of the Lords of the Admiralty, from the brewery of Messrs. Samuel Allsepp and Sons, of Burton-on-Trent. E. M. and J. Kettis have supplied stoves to the *Resolute*, which occupy but little room and consume few coals in comparison to the formerly fitted stoves. Arnott's stoves have been supplied to the *Pioneer*. Captain White has presented jars of his curry and bottles of his anti-scorbutic remedy for the scurvy; and Mr. Arrowsmith several of his new maps, with Penny's and Dr. Rae's recent discoveries.

Captain Sir E. Belcher, Commander of the Expedition, was born in 1799; entered the navy in 1812. For his services he was awarded a post commission in 1841, the decoration of a C.B. immediately following, and the honour of knighthood in 1843. His well known “Narrative of a Voyage Round the World,” performed in H.M.S. *Sulphur*, during the years 1836-42, fully develops his important services during that period. To Sir Edward Belcher is also attributed the authorship of a “Treatise on Nautical Surveying.”

THE REPUTED MURDER OF MR. BOYD IN THE PACIFIC.—On Friday week Messrs. Mark and Lennox Boyd, brothers of Mr. Benjamin Boyd, who, it was reported, was lately murdered in one of the Solomon Islands, had an interview with the First Lord of the Admiralty. Messrs. Boyd apprised his Grace, in the first instance, that their motive in making the request for an interview arose from a slight hope that their brother may still survive, as there was no direct evidence, from the statements of Messrs. Otwell, Crawford, Webster, and Barnes, of the schooner *Wanderer*, as reported in the public papers, that he had been actually killed by the natives. In referring to the subject of Captain Denham's proposed expedition to the South Seas for survey and discovery, the Messrs. Boyd seemed to suggest whether it might not be desirable that the captain should be instructed to proceed to the Solomon Islands with a view of inquiring into all the circumstances connected with the report. The Duke of Northumberland was of opinion that the wisest course would be for them to communicate with the American Minister, who had already expressed a desire to be of service, and who would, no doubt, urge upon his Government the expediency of directing the attention of American whalers in the Pacific to the circumstances of the case. Meanwhile, every assistance would be afforded by the Admiralty, if anything occurred to justify the intervention of our Government; and he begged Messrs. Boyd to communicate freely with him should any facts come to their knowledge that might strengthen their present impression as to their brother being still alive, or having been alive at the time of the departure of the *Wanderer* from the Solomon Islands.

POWERFUL ANTIDOTE.—M. Meniere relates in the *Gazette Medicale* some of the experiments of which he was a witness while travelling in Germany with M. Orfila. During their visit to the Museum of Natural History at Prague, they were introduced to Dr. Ellenberger, who was happy at having an opportunity of showing them his experiments with the antidotes against vegetable poisons, and particularly strychnine and morphine. After relating the various trials he had made on himself, he proposed to perform an immediate experiment. He sent to an apothecary for fifteen decigrammes (thirty grains) of acetate of morphine, which, after it had been examined by M. Orfila and declared to be pure, he put on his tongue and swallowed, to the great alarm of all present. One minute after he swallowed about the same quantity of a white powder, and the poison produced no effect whatever on him. He related that he had made the same experiment on animals and on plants, and invariably with the same result. He appears to have done the same with strychnine, and always with impunity, until the last time, when he unfortunately lost his life.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

Their Lordships re-assembled after the Easter recess.

CHANCERY REFORM.

The LORD CHANCELLOR laid on the table and moved the first reading of a bill for the abolition of the office of Master in Chancery. It was intended by the bill to reduce the number of Masters to five, and to confine their jurisdiction to the winding up of all business at present before them. The noble Lord adverted also to a second bill in preparation for a more general improvement in the administration of the law.

LORD CRANWORTH spoke in favour of the principle of the bill; and LORD CAMPBELL, in expressing his concurrence, declared that the great root of all the delay in Chancery was the constant reference of causes from equity to common-law courts, and back again.

The LORD CHANCELLOR explained that the bill in contemplation would contain a proviso calculated to effect a partial remedy of that evil.

The bill was then read a first time.

The Bishopric of Quebec Bill passed through committee.

The Mutiny Bill and the Marine Mutiny Bill were each read a third time and passed.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The House met at the close of the Easter recess. The Sheriffs of the City of London appeared at the bar of the House, and presented a petition from the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the City of London, against the Charitable Trusts Bill.

NEW WRITS.

Mr. F. MACKENZIE moved the issue of a new writ for the east division of Suffolk, in the room of Lord Rendlesham, deceased.

Mr. HARDCASTLE moved that a new writ should be issued for Tavistock, in the room of Mr. Trelawny, who has accepted the stewardship of her Majesty's manor of Helpholme.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER gave notice that on Thursday, the 29th of April, he would move that, on every Thursday following, orders of the day have precedence of notices of motion.

METROPOLITAN GRAND JURIES.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL obtained leave to bring in a bill to render it unnecessary to summon grand juries within the metropolitan district, and for the amendment of the criminal law in other particulars.

THE EAST INDIA COMPANY'S CHARTER.

Mr. HERBES (the President of the Board of Control) moved for a select committee to inquire into the operation of the act 3 and 4 William 4, c. 85, for the better government of her Majesty's Indian territories, and to report their observations thereon. It was, he said, unnecessary for him to fatigue the House by entering into a history of the rise and progress of our possessions in India, and he would, therefore, only refer to the act of 1833, which changed the whole character of the East India Company, for they at that time ceased to be traders, and became the agents of the British Government for administering the affairs of our Indian empire. It was to inquire into the operation of this act that he asked for the appointment of a committee, as the charter of the Company must very shortly terminate, it being only for a period of twenty years. It would, therefore, be for the Crown and Parliament to consider whether they would renew the last charter, with certain modifications, or adopt a new system altogether for the Government of India. Since the passing of the act of 1833 the revenue of India had increased under the management of the Company; but, on the other hand, the charges had also increased, and 20 millions had been added to the debt owing to the wars which had taken place in that quarter. It was, however, satisfactory to know that the state of the Company was prosperous and that, notwithstanding the expenses of those wars, the revenue did not fall very far short of the expenditure, and, on the whole, the existing system had worked satisfactorily.

Mr. ANSTAY moved as an amendment the addition of the following words, “And that an humble address be presented to her Majesty, representing the lateness of the session, the near approach of the period when the powers and authorities under which the Government of her Majesty's Indian dominion is now carried on will naturally determine, and the urgent importance of obtaining a thorough insight into the condition of those dominions, and into the feelings and wishes of the Queen's subjects, natives and Europeans, resident within the same, before Parliament is called upon to pass any measure for continuing the said powers and authorities; and praying her Majesty for that purpose to take the necessary measures for sending commissioners of inquiry into British India, duly instructed and empowered to commence and prosecute all requisite inquiries in the premises, and to report the evidence, together with their observations thereupon, to her Majesty in Parliament.” The hon. and learned gentleman commented at much length on what he called the misgovernment of India, and the tyranny by which the population was held down in a state of poverty by the East India Government, which, by its mode of taxation, crushed everything like enterprise. The land tax was a tax upon crops rather than land; and the salt tax was a shameful monopoly in the hands of the Company, tending to the injury not only of agriculture, but of health also, for it was a fact not a little singular that the first appearance of cholera in India was immediately following the imposition of the tax on salt by Warren Hastings. The hon. and learned gentleman also commented in severe terms upon what he alleged to be the unjust and harsh treatment which Colonel Outram, one of the Company's most valuable officers, had lately received at the hands of the Bombay Government.

Mr. H. BAILLIE contended that the natives who had petitioned against the present management of Indian affairs had no wish that a special commission should be sent out. With respect to the weight of taxation, and the mode of levying it, he doubted whether those who complained could devise any means by which £25,000,000 of revenue could be raised, less obnoxious or oppressive than those now adopted.

Sir E. COLEBROOK supported the original motion, expressing a general concurrence in the views of Mr. Herries.

Mr. HARDINGE said he quite agreed in what had fallen from Mr. Baillie, and considered the statements of Mr. Anstey as to the poverty and oppression of the population of India to be greatly exaggerated.

Mr. HOME expressed his satisfaction at the inquiry proposed to be instituted by Mr. Herries, and with respect to the amendment of Mr. Anstey, however he might approve of certain portions of the inquiry suggested, he must, from his knowledge of India, say that the amendment would be utterly impracticable.

Sir J. W. HOGG thought it would be better to postpone discussion until after the inquiry which was now to be instituted should have terminated; and on the part of the great Company he represented he would say that their most anxious wish was that the inquiry should be as full as possible, and that it might lead to beneficial results for our Eastern possessions. He expressed his absolute amazement at the statements made by Mr. Anstey, and said that no one was justified in making such statements without some accurate information to support them; and the hon. gentleman had stated no grounds whatever to warrant him in the indiscriminate charges he had made. He denied that the land tax was at all a tax on crops; for, in fact, it varied not according to the crops, but according to the productive power of the land.

Sir R. H. INGLIS thought the natives of India had a claim to a much larger amount of religious instruction than had hitherto accorded to them. He hoped the hon. member for Youghal would not persist in his amendment, but allow the select committee to be appointed.

LORD J. RUSSELL reminded the House that the proposed committee was not to decide what was to be the future Government of India, but to collect information. The Government, he conceived, would retain in their own hands the right to bring forward what propositions they might think proper on the subject, and Parliament its right to deal with them as it might deem fit. He was not dissatisfied with the experience of the present system; under the act of 1833 he believed this country had performed its duty to India—the people had been protected from the tyranny of petty Kings, justice had been impartially administered, education had been promoted, and political morality disseminated—and, therefore, in its main features, he was favourable to its renewal.

Mr. GOULBURN hoped the attention of the committee would be specially directed to the question how far the means of extending a knowledge of the Christian religion, which, under the act of 1833, had been introduced, had been successful, and to what extent they might be enlarged.

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY suggested the appointment of an officer to examine and report on matters of finance.

Mr. MANGLES concurred with Mr. Goulburn in his wish to extend to our Indian fellow subjects the blessings of Christianity, but believed, if it were attempted as part of our system of government, the object in view would be retarded.

The amendment was then negatived without a division, and the original motion agreed to.

The Passengers Act Amendment Bill passed through committee.

The Turnpike Roads (Ireland) Bill, and the Secretary of Bankrupts Office Abolition Bill were severally read a second time.

The Exchequer Bills (£17,742,800) Bill, and the Linen, &c. Manufactures (Ireland) Bill, passed through committee.

The Poor-Law Board Continuance Bill was read a second time.

The Poor Relief Act Continuance Bill was considered in committee.

The Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill, as amended, was considered, when two clauses were added, on the motion of Sir A. COCKBURN, for protecting commissioners and introducing regulations in regard to a summons.—Adjourned at 1 o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

ROYAL ASSENT.

The Royal assent was given to-day to the Mutiny Bill and the Marine Mutiny Bill, and several private bills. The Lords Commissioners were the Lord Chancellor, the Marquis of Exeter, and the Marquis of Salisbury. Their Lordships then adjourned during pleasure.

The Patent Law Amendment Bill, and the Bishopric of Quebec Bill were severally read a third time and passed.

MAYNOUTH.

The Marquis of CLANICARDE paid a visit to the noble Earl at the head of the Government, with the view of ascertaining the intentions of her Majesty's Ministers in respect to the continuance of the Parliamentary grant to the Roman Catholic College of Maynooth.

The Earl of DERBY repeated, in substance, the answer he had formerly given to a similar question. The Government, he said, had no present intention of

altering the existing law; but, if circumstances should occur to lead to an alteration in their views, due notice would be given of it.

Earl GREY contended that the subject was one which ought not to be left in doubt, and that the noble Earl was bound to state whether his opinions upon it now were the same that he had expressed in 1845.

The Earl of DERBY confessed that he had been greatly disappointed by the result of the measure of 1845.

In the course of the subsequent discussion, the Marquis of LANSDOWNE stated that if it were contemplated to repeal the grant he should oppose any such proposition.

After a few words from the Bishop of CASHEL and Earl GREY, in explanation, the subject dropped.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

NEW WRIT.

On the motion of Mr. F. MACKENZIE, a new writ was ordered to issue for the city of Worcester, in the room of Mr. F. Rufford, who has accepted the office of steward of the Chiltern Hundreds.

PROGRESS OF BUSINESS IN THE HOUSE.

On the motion of the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, it was agreed that on Thursday, the 29th of April, and every Thursday following, orders of the day have precedence of notices of motion.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he was prepared to fix a day for bringing on the budget?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied that he had, before the holidays, stated that he hoped to be able on the 19th (Monday last) to fix such day; but he had not promised to do so, and a particular reason connected with the public business still prevented his fixing it. He said, in answer to a second question from Lord John Russell, that he would shortly name the day.

MAYNOUTH.

Mr. SPOONER postponed his Maynooth motion until the 4th of May.

Mr. BRIGHT complained of the postponements of the subject, as use was being made, throughout the country, of the Maynooth cry. He wished to know whether Mr. Spooner would “stick” to his new appointment.

Mr. SPOONER replied that the postponements had been rendered necessary by the state of the motion paper, and that he would assuredly bring on the question on the day now appointed.

BRITISH SUBJECTS ABROAD.

In reply to Lord Dudley Stuart, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated, with reference to the outrage alleged to have been committed by the police at Leghorn upon a corporal of Marines named Bragg, belonging to her Majesty's ship *Firebrand*, that the British Government had not accepted the punishment of eight days' imprisonment, inflicted upon one of the police officers, as a sufficient reparation, and that communications were still going on with the Tuscan Government respecting this case, as well as that of Mr. Mather.

VESTRIES.

Sir DE LACY EVANS obtained leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Act for the regulation of Vestries, with reference to joint parishes.

THE REV. MR. BENNETT AND THE VICARAGE OF FROME.

Mr. HORSMAN moved, “That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that she will be graciously pleased to direct inquiry to be made whether due respect was paid to the decrees of the constitutions and canons ecclesiastical of the Church of England, in the recent institution of Mr. Bennett to the vicarage of Frome.” The hon. gentleman entered at great length into a history of the case of Mr. Bennett; calling in question the conduct of the clergymen who had certified to the bishop the orthodoxy of the rev. gentleman during the three preceding years—the conduct of the Bishop of London in giving him a certificate, however qualified that certificate might be—and the conduct of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, in having, under the circumstances, instituted Mr. Bennett to the Vicarage of Frome, against the wishes and remonstrances of the inhabitants of the district. There was no redress to be obtained for such proceedings so legitimate as that of the House of Commons asking the Queen to interfere and purge the Church of this great scandal, and thus prove herself the real Defender of the Faith.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER did not rise for the purpose of offering an opinion upon the circumstances brought by the hon. gentleman under consideration; but he felt strongly the inconvenience of discussing such matters in a popular assembly. The motion, however, of the hon. gentleman appeared to bear no proportion to the magnitude of the evil, nor indeed did he suggest any specific remedy. They should, therefore, before agreeing to the motion, well consider if it could lead to any redress of the grievance. For his own part he believed there must exist a power of appeal to the Archbishop; and if so it was premature to bring the case before Parliament, it should be so brought in a different shape—it should be the subject of legislation, and not of a mere motion to a division, for, however important the subject, he believed it would be felt that that House was not the proper tribunal before which it should be introduced. The precedent of their interference would be bad, for no single institution of a clergyman could take place which might not be made the subject of a similar motion. The right hon. gentleman concluded by moving as an amendment the previous question.

Mr. HOME agreed that, as a general rule, such discussions should not be brought forward in that House; but this case formed an exception, for when the House paid for the maintenance of the Established Church they had a right to see that its ministers fulfilled the duties for which they were paid.

Mr. NEWDEGATE begged of the Government not to ignore the motion without devising some means of rendering the authority of her Majesty effective in repressing the abuses complained of.

Sir J. PARINGTON said he agreed with Mr. Newdegate that the subject was one demanding inquiry and redress, but he did not think that that was to be obtained by the motion of the hon. member for Cokermonth, which was simply an attack on the Bishop of Bath and Wells, who was advanced in years, and with health very much impaired.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL vindicated the right of the House of Commons to deal with such questions; but at the same time the inconvenience of dealing with them was so great, that he thought it would be better to leave the matter in the hands of the Government, if it would pledge itself that it was one which must be dealt with, and that it would therefore make the necessary inquiries into all the facts of the case, with a view to a remedy.

Mr. GLADSTONE was ready, from his partial knowledge of the case, to confute the propositions so ably laid down by the hon. member for Cokermonth. He objected to the motion, for he objected to all vague and indefinite pledges, and thought the matter should be left in the hands of the Government.

Mr. WALPOLE admitted that a case had been made out demanding inquiry; and the Government moved the previous question in order to give time to the Government to make that inquiry in a friendly spirit, and communicate the result to the House.

LORD R. GROSVENOR hoped that, after this pledge, Mr. Horsman would withdraw his motion.

Mr. HORSMAN replied, and said he must decline a friendly inquiry, for he could well imagine what would be the result of such an inquiry; but he was quite willing to leave the subject in the hands of the Government, if it would pledge itself that it should become the subject of a judicial and not a friendly inquiry.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the difficulty he felt was that he did not know how a judicial inquiry could be made, and he would not, therefore, promise it; but he would promise that a *bona fide* inquiry should take place.

The House then divided, and the numbers were:—

For the previous question	100
Against	80
Majority	20

Mr. HORSMAN's motion was accordingly lost.

HUNGARIAN REFUGEES.

LORD DUDLEY STUART moved for copies or extracts of any communications which have passed between the Government of this country and Turkey, and other foreign Governments, respecting the Hungarian and other refugees detained at Kutayah, from the date of the last dispatch on this subject, a copy of which has been laid before this House up to the present time (in continuation of papers already presented to Parliament).

Mr. HOME seconded the motion.

LORD PALMERSTON said, as far as he was concerned, he could see no objection to the production of the papers, nor had any objection existed to their production on the part of the Government of which he was a member.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said there had been a great deal of acrimonious feeling between some foreign Courts on the subject of the Hungarian refugees, and he thought it therefore desirable that such feelings should not be revived. As, however, the noble Lord opposite (Lord Palmerston) saw no objection to their production, he had no wish to adhere to his first impression, and would consent to the motion.

LORD J. RUSSELL expressed his satisfaction that the papers were to be produced, for the negotiations were most creditable to this country.

The motion was accordingly agreed to.

The Loan Societies Bill and the Stock in Trade Bill were read a second time.

Adjourned at 20 minutes past 9 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The House sat from noon until half-past five o'clock.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. CRAWFORD BAILLIE took the oath and his seat for the Monmouth boroughs.

THE CAPE.

Mr. ADDERLEY presented a petition, forwarded by the municipality of Cape Town, on behalf of a public meeting, complaining that the Legislative Council had resolved to prevent the passing of the ordinances sent out to the colony, to authorise the forming of a new constitution, and praying that a bill (the draft of which they transmitted) might be agreed to by the Imperial Parliament, in order that effect might be given to those ordinances, and that thus that measure of justice might be granted to the colony which was denied by its local legislature.

THE “BIRKENHEAD” STEAM-SHIP.

Captain SCOBELL asked the Secretary of the Admiralty whether the attention of that department had been directed to the expediency, or otherwise, of fitting vessels in compartments? He also wished to be informed whether the *Birkenhead* had been fitted in compartments; and, if so, in how many?

Mr. A. STAFFORD replied that the *Birkenhead* had been fitted in compartments, and the number of its compartments was five.

IRISH FISHERIES.

Mr. CONOLLY moved the second reading of the Irish Fisheries Bill. Lord NAAS admitted that the state of the law was unsatisfactory, but doubted how far a private member was capable of placing matters upon a better footing. The question had undergone the serious consideration of the Government; and should they see any just and practicable mode of dealing with it, they would bring in a comprehensive measure. In the meantime he must oppose the motion now made.

After remarks from Mr. Monnell, Mr. Scully, Mr. Henry Herbert, Captain Jones, Sir William Somerville, and Mr. Whiteside, Mr. CONOLLY withdrew his motion, expressing a hope that the Government would take an early opportunity of dealing with the question.

CHURCH EXTENSION.

Mr. FREWEN moved the second reading of the Building of Churches, &c. Bill; but the Speaker having intimated that some of the clauses were beyond the scope of the title, Mr. Frewen withdrew his bill.

The Parish Constables Bill was read a second time.

The Enfranchisement of Copyholds Bill passed through committee.

The Industrial and Providential Partnerships Bill was read a second time, and referred to a Select Committee.

The Proclamations for Assembling Parliament Bill was also read a second time.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

Lord Roddesdale presided on the woolsack, in the absence of the Lord Chancellor.

ST. ALBAN'S DISFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

The Earl of DERBY, in moving the second reading of the bill, entered into a detail of the circumstances which had given rise to the measure, and occasioned considerable merriment by reading extracts from the evidence of the several witnesses examined before the recent commission, in which it was admitted that the great body of the electors were in the habit of selling their votes to the highest bidder at every election for the borough of St. Alban's.

After a brief discussion upon the question whether the prayer of a petition presented to the House for counsel to be heard against the measure ought to be granted, the bill was read a second time.

Lord REDESDALE then moved that counsel be heard at the bar against the bill. This gave rise to another discussion, which resulted in a division, when the motion for hearing counsel at the bar against the bill was carried by a majority of 41 to 15.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

NEW MEMBER.

Sir F. Kelly took the oath and his seat for the borough of Harwich.

NEW ZEALAND.

Sir W. MOLESWORTH would be glad to know when Government intended to bring in their bill for conferring a constitution upon New Zealand?

Sir J. PAXINGTON said he should move a resolution for the purpose next Monday week.

THE CLERGY IN CANADA.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL wished to know if her Majesty's Government had any intention of bringing in a bill to extend the provisions of the Clergy Reserves (Canada) Act.

Sir J. PAXINGTON said Government had no intention of bringing in any bill to alter that Act this session.

EXPULSION OF CLERGYMEN FROM AUSTRIA.

Mr. ANSTEE would be glad to know if Government had any objection to lay the correspondence which had taken place on this subject with Austria before the House.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said there would be no objection when the negotiations which are now pending in the matter were brought to a close.

TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE.

Mr. M. GIBSON then brought under the notice of the House the policy of deriving revenue from taxes upon knowledge, and moved, in separate resolutions:—That such financial arrangements ought to be made as will enable Parliament to dispense with the duty on paper; That the new-paper stamp ought to be abandoned; That the tax on advertisements ought to be repealed. He thought the proper time for bringing forward such a motion was before the Budget was produced; for he knew by experience, if he waited till afterwards, he would be told that it was impossible to entertain it, because the financial arrangements of the year had been completed. He was himself in favour of all these resolutions, but he had separated them in order to test the opinion of the House upon each. He admitted that the repeal of the paper duty would not have much effect with respect to high-priced books; but as to cheap publications, though the repeal of the duty would not enable the publishers to reduce the price still further, it would nevertheless have the beneficial effect of enabling them to improve the quality of these publications by paying for good authorship out of the money thus saved. He could see no reason, if the duty on paper were repealed, why this country should not become the paper manufactory for the whole world, and the question was, therefore, in a great degree an agricultural one, for the manufacture of paper was one peculiarly suited to agricultural districts. With respect to the advertisement duty, it was a most impolitic impost, and as unjust as it was impolitic, for it imposed the same duty upon a servant advertising in five lines for a situation as it imposed on the capitalist whose advertisement extended to a column. The right hon. gentleman then dwelt upon the impolicy of the newspaper stamp, advocating the propriety of allowing the cheap publications to communicate news as well as literary amusement to the readers.

Mr. EWART seconded the motion.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, he was bound to consider the question purely in a financial point of view, and in that respect he could not recommend to the House a sacrifice of £1,500,000 sterling of revenue. On Friday next he would have to make his financial statement, and then it would be for the right hon. gentleman, and those who concurred with him on the question, to assent to the principles and measures embodied in that statement, or to take an opposite course. He reminded the House that they should be cautious how they dealt with the indirect taxation of the country, when there was such an outcry against that direct taxation which was necessary to enable them to effect any reduction in indirect taxation. In opposing the motion, he wished it to be understood that he did so entirely from considerations of revenue.

Mr. WATLEY considered it reasonable that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should be allowed to make his financial statement in the first instance, and he, therefore, moved the adjournment of the debate for a fortnight.

Mr. CORBEN seconded the motion for adjournment, and said, if the Government would undertake to deal with the taxes in question, he would receive the boon as thankfully as if it came from an Administration more in accordance with his own views.

After a few words from Sir F. Thesiger, Mr. GIBSON agreed to the adjournment of the question.

In the course of a conversation that ensued, an impression was conveyed that the remarks of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the advertisement duty were to be taken as an indication of an intention to repeal that duty.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, therefore, rose and stated, that he wished it to be distinctly understood that no observations of his admitted of being constructed in that sense.

The debate was accordingly adjourned.

The House then rose shortly after eight o'clock.

FATHER GAVAZZI'S LECTURES.—On Wednesday this Italian ecclesiastic commenced a series of lectures at Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's, his object being to demonstrate that Italy, as a nation, does not sympathize with the measures and public conduct of the Papacy. He denied that "Pope" and "Italian" were convertible terms, and maintained that the Italians, who had obtained names in the world's peerage, had consistently opposed the usurpations and tyranny of the Popes. The oration, which occupied upwards of an hour in the delivery, was listened to with the most profound attention.

ETON COLLEGE.—The school opened on Monday last. In the course of next week the whole of the students will have assembled. The authorities of the college have instructed G. R. Booth, Esq., of Wandsworth-road, to light up the college with his patent vegetable oil gas, on account of its wholesomeness and purity, being free from the arsenic and sulphurous vapours contained in coal gas, and nearly four times as brilliant. On Friday week the upper and lower schools, cloisters and gallery, quadrangle, Weston's-yard, and the boys' new gallery, were lighted up for the first time. The gas is supplied from a very simple apparatus erected in the brewery yard, occupying but a trifling space of ground, and answers admirably. The old organ in the college chapel is to be taken away, and a magnificent new one erected in that part of the edifice nearly opposite to Lupton Chapel. A beautiful new stained-glass window, subscribed for by old Etonians, has been commenced in one of the south windows of the chapel; and an important improvement has been made to the entrance into Eton by the pulling down of a house at Spier's-corner, and continuing the wall to the residence of the Rev. Mr. Luxmore.

OPENING OF HOMERTON COLLEGE.—This college, established as the training institution of the Congregational Board of Education, was opened on Tuesday. The Rev. John Harris, D.D., principal of New College, delivered the inaugural address. A cold collation was provided in the afternoon for the visitors, and a conversation took place in the evening.

On Tuesday, the Shrewsbury and Hereford Railway was opened as far as Ludlow, 27 miles, by a special train, consisting of two engines and 27 first-class carriages, containing the directors.

A society has been lately formed at Paris for inquiring into the history and records of French Protestantism.

In the year ending the 5th of January last there were 24,543,657 gallons of proof spirits distilled in the United Kingdom. The duty paid on proof spirits for home consumption in the year amounted to £6,017,218 7s. 4d. At the end of the year given (5th January last) there were 179,005 gallons actually warehoused under the Excise lock. In bonded stores on the 5th January there were 7,024,313 gallons of spirits.

At the Marlborough-street Police-court, on Tuesday, a woman who had been charged with stealing a couple of jugs, committed suicide while in the cell, by hanging herself to the bar of the window by which light is admitted into the place.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

FAIRSERVICE.—1. Complaints are made of subscribers making no acknowledgment of having received their copies of the Tournament games, which occasions a good deal of confusion. 2. In the last game played between Messrs. Anderson and S. Austin in the Tournament book of games, a move of each side has been omitted. After move 31 introduce—White P to K R 3d Black P to K Kt 4th.

QUIX.—We can take no notice of communications so addressed. If, instead of indulging in silly speculations as to why some question which never reached us was not replied to, the writer had civilly repeated his inquiry, it would have been answered.

WELL-WISHER.—The best way to ensure a reply the same week is to send your communications early, by Tuesday, if possible.

R. P. Newton.—See the notice above to "Fairservice."

VERCHY.—Much too simple.

E. B. C. Princeton, United States.—1. Your Problems were duly received, and shall have insertion. 2. The "German Handbuch" has never been translated into English. It was begun some years ago by one of our leading players, but by the adoption of our notation it threatened to become so voluminous that the task was prudently relinquished.

COLONNA, Zwölfe.—Will our obliging correspondent favour us with his address? We can then communicate more fully on the subject of the Problems than it is possible to do in the restricted space of the paper. He will find the "famous" Indian Problem (perhaps the finest four-move position extant) published every month on the wrapper of the Chess-Player's Chronicle. The promised copy of Van Nieuwla's Treatise (1792) will be much prized.

E. M. H.—They shall appear.

G. H. T.—The typographical errors detected in the first issue of the Tournament games have been corrected since, and a list of the errata will, we have no doubt, be sent to those who have the first edition.

R. P. G.—Ingenious, but incorrect, since Black may, for his second move, play K to Q 3d, and avoid mate in three moves.

ALMERIC is thanked for his obliging inquiries.

CHESSING—It must entirely depend upon circumstances.

R. R. of Ashford—It shall have attention.

H. B. of Blandford—You cannot castle to get out of check.

R. P. P.—The corrected version shall be examined.

B. W. F.—The two Problems now received shall be reported on next week. Those previously sent were inadmissible.

ARTHUR A. Cuper.—The report of Mr. L. Wenthall's visit to the Fife Chess Club reached us too late.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 428. by Fairservice, Philo Judy, Midge, Quix, and E. M. H., of Hull; B. W. F. of Warwick, are correct.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 429. by Argus, M. P., Quix, Jack of Shrewsbury, Downham, M. E. R. Colonna, of Zwölfe; W. B. Y. and B. W. F. are correct.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 430. by Cahiracon, J. M. of Sherburn; M. E. R. B. W. F. D'Or Alva, J. W. B. of Wrotham; Derowon, Stevens, Turst Niet, Sophie Krohn, Almeric, R. R. of Ashford; St. Edmund, Downham, are correct.

SOLUTIONS OF ENIGMAS. by J. M. of Sherburn; Derowon, Turst Niet, M. P., R. R. of Ashford; St. Edmund, B. W. F. are correct. All others are wrong.

* In our next we shall give a fine Problem, hitherto unpublished, by the Rev H. Bolton, and some excellent games just played by the great Russian masters, Jaenisch and Schumoff.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 428.*

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1. R to Q B 2d (dis- covering check)	R to Q 4th	3. R takes Q P (ch)	P takes R (best)
2. Q takes Kt (ch)	K takes Q	4. R to Q B 6th	Kt takes R: or, K takes R
		5. B mates	

* The solution given last week as that of 428 was the solution of 427.

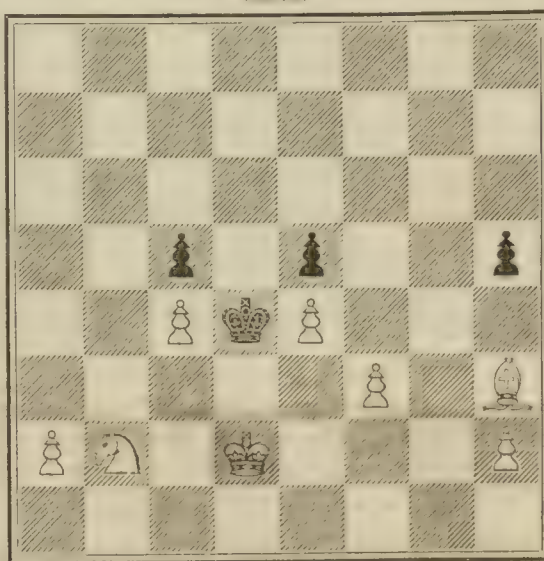
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 430.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1. Q to K 7th (ch)	K takes Q	3. Kt to K B 6th (dis ch)	R takes K
2. P to K 5th	R to Q B 3d (best)	4. R to K 8th—Mate	

PROBLEM No. 431.

By E. B. C., of Princeton, United States.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in five moves.

INSTRUCTIVE GAMBIT BETWEEN MM. KIESERITZKY AND SZEN.

(Allgaier Gambit.)

WHITE (Mr. K.)	BLACK (Mr. S.)	WHITE (Mr. K.)	BLACK (Mr. S.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th	23. Q to her R 5th	K R to K 2d
2. P to K B 4th	P takes B	24. Q Kt to K 3d	R takes K Kt
3. Kt to K B 3d	P to K Kt 4th	25. P takes R	Q takes P
4. P to K R 4th	P to K Kt 5th	26. Kt to Q 5th	Kt to K 2d
5. Kt to K 5th	P to K R 4th	27. R takes K R P	Kt takes Kt
6. B to Q B 4th	R to K R 2d	28. R to K R 8th (ch)	K to Q 2d
7. P to Q 4th	P to Q 3d	29. P takes Kt	Q takes P
8. Kt to Q 3d	P to K 6th	30. Q to her 8th (ch)	K to Q B 3d
9. P to K Kt 3d	Q B to K 3d	31. Q to her 8th (ch)	K to K 3d
10. Q B to K Kt 5th	K B to K 2d	32. Q takes K Kt P	R to K B 2d (d)
11. B takes Q B	P takes B	33. R takes Kt (ch)	K to R 2d
12. Kt to K B 4th	K to Q 2d	34. R to K R 8th	P to K 5th
13. P to Q 5th	P to K 4th	35. P to K Kt 6th	P to K 6th (e)
14. Kt to K 6th	Q to K sq	36. R to K R 2d	R to K 2d
15. Q to her 3d	P to Q R 3d	37. Q R to Q sq	P to K B 7th (ch)
16. Kt to Q B 3d	K to Q B sq	38. K to B sq	Q to K 4th
17. Q to her B 4th	B takes B	39. K to her 2d	Q takes Q Kt P
18. P takes B	P to Q Kt 4th	40. Q to K B 5th	Q to her Kt 5th
19. Q to her Kt 4th	P to Q B 4th (a)	41. R to K R 4th	Q to her B 6th
20. Q to her R 5th (b)	Q R to Q R 2d	42. Q to her 3d	Q to her Kt 7th
21. Q to her Kt 6th (c)	K R to Q 2d	43. R to K R 7th	R takes R
22. Q Kt to Q sq	Q R to Q Kt 2d	44. P takes R, and wins	

(a) This bold advance of the Infantry serves as a momentary check to White's attack, but in the end it leaves the black King too much exposed for safety.

(b) Better than taking the Pawn in passing, because it retards the freedom of the adverse pieces.

(c) P to K Kt 6th seems also an embarrassing move.

(d) An ingenious attempt to open a counter attack, which, without great care on White's part, would have wrecked the game for him in spite of all his superior forces.

(e) M. Szen plays this disheartening end game admirably. Disdaining even the appearance of surrender, he maintains his ground inch by inch to the very last.

CHESS ENIGMAS.

No. 733.—By an AMATEUR.

White: K at K Kt 2d, Q at K Kt 8th, Bs at K B sq and Q Kt 6th, Ps at K 4th and Q 3d.
Black: K at K B 5th, Q at Q R 3d; Ps at K Kt 5th and 6th, K 4th, Q 5th, and Q Kt 4th.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

No. 734.—By the Same.

White: K at his 2d, B at K B 2d, Kts at K R 4th and K B sq; Ps at K R 3d, Q 3d, and Q B 4th.
Black: K at K B 5th; Ps at K R 4th, K B 4th, Q 5th, and Q B 4th.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

CHESS REUNION OF PLYMOUTH, DEVONPORT, AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.—The first meeting of the Chess amateurs in this part of the country took place, as announced, on Thursday week, and was completely and eminently successful. At an early hour of the evening a large and most respectable assemblage of visitors had congregated in the New Hall, at Stonehouse; and after partaking of the refreshments provided for the occasion, a ballot for opponents was taken, and the respective parties sat down to their "princely sport" with that zest and keenness which Chess players only know. Upon the conclusion of that zest and keenness which Chess players only know. The company separated, after an evening of really social and intellectual enjoyment, at half-past eleven o'clock.

CONSOLS AT PAR.—REDUCTION OF THE NATIONAL DEBT.

Last week Consols were called at par, the Three per Cents were at 100, and there was great cheering on the Stock Exchange. Only once before in the present century has this circumstance happened, and only three times before since the National Debt became a great national burthen. We will lay before our readers a few interesting particulars connected with the subject.

The practice of borrowing money for a perpetuity, or on interminable annuities, was begun in the reign of William III. Previous Sovereigns were borrowers; but their loans were for a limited period, and were repaid when their wars were at an end. He and his immediate successors borrowed without any intention to repay, and began a debt that has since been increased to the amount, in 1851, exclusive of unfunded debt, of £769,272,562. Instead of borrowing money as private individuals do at some current rate of interest, it was from an early period customary with the Government to fix the rate of interest, generally at 3 per cent., and as the market rate was high or low to promise to pay a larger or smaller amount of principal. Hence the mass of the debt was contracted in a three per cent stock, and the amount of the debt was augmented nearly two-fifths more than the sum actually lent to the Government.

In 1751 the different Three per Cent. Stocks were consolidated into one stock, which has ever since been known by the name of Consols, and with successive additions has ever since formed the principal portion of the National Debt. Prior to that consolidation the Three per Cents rose in 1837 to 107, the highest point they ever reached. Again, in 1749, they rose to 100, and from that time to 1844 they were always below par. In 1844 Consols were at 101½, and on Friday last they reached 100, being only the second time Consols have been at par since they were created, and only the fourth time within 160 years that a three per cent. annuity in perpetuity has been worth £100, or more than £100.

The funds have undergone some fearful vicissitudes. In 1700, on the death of the King of Spain, they fell to 50 per cent., "whereby," says the historian, "great distress ensued to many." After the peace of Utrecht, in 1715, they rapidly rose; and between 1730 and the rebellion in 1745, they were never below 89; but during the rebellion in 1745 they sank to 76. They fell to 53½ in 1782, at the close of the American war; and, mounting afterwards to 97½ in 1792, fell, in September, 1797, to 47½. This was the lowest they ever reached. Between that and the highest point, 107, attained in the year 1737, the difference was equivalent to 117 per cent., sufficient to annihilate many fortunes, or to confer great wealth on those who purchased when the funds were at the lowest.

It is customary to speak with approbation of the high price of stocks, and it is advantageous to stockholders wishing to sell; but it is the reverse of advantageous to those who wish to buy. To possess one hundred pounds in the Three per Cents means a right to claim from the Government a perpetual annuity of £3. The price of annuities varies with the interest of money; and as that is high, as a sum doubles itself in fourteen or twenty-one years, a proportionate less sum paid down will purchase an annuity. A high price of the funds, or the necessity of giving a large sum for an annuity, is equivalent to a low rate of interest for money; and, as a high rate of interest is a proof of high profit and of successful industry, a high price of the funds is not considered a good sign by political economists. The security offered by our Government has undergone no change for the last thirty years, and as it gave £3 a year to receive £75 or to receive £96, the interest of money in the market was comparatively high or low. To all borrowers a low rate of interest is advantageous; to all lenders, the reverse; and thus as we are borrowers or lenders we speak of a high price of the funds as advantageous or disadvantageous.

A high price of the funds being equivalent to a low rate of interest, whenever the funds have risen to par or above it, the interest of the National Debt has been reduced, or an expectation has prevailed that it would be reduced. It is now talked of, but apparently without reason, as, since Friday, Consols have declined, and their immense amount (about £380,000,000) will prevent the reduction of interest upon them, unless the interest of money remains permanently low, and Consols rise and continue above par.

The first reduction of interest was made by Sir Robert Walpole in 1716, when, being enabled to borrow at a low rate, he induced the national creditors to accept a lower rate than they had lent their money at. In 1794 a similar operation was carried into effect by Mr. Pelham, a brother of the then Duke of Newcastle. No similar reduction was possible from that period almost to our own times. In 1822 Mr. Vansittart reduced the interest on a Five per Cent. Stock to Four per Cent; and in 1824, Mr. Robinson, the present Earl of Ripon, reduced the Four per Cent. Stock to Three-and-a-Half. In 1830 Mr. Goulburn followed the same course, and reduced the new Four per Cents to Three-and-a-Half; and in 1844 he reduced the Three-and-a-Half to Three-and-a-Quarter, to become a Three per Cent. Stock in 1854. By the several reductions of interest, it is estimated (what Sir Robert Walpole saved is not stated) that—

Mr. Pelham saved per year	..	..	..	..	£565,000
Mr. Vansittart	"	"	"	"	1,230,000
Mr. Robinson	"	"	"	"	375,000
Mr. Goulburn, in 1830	"	"	"	"	778,000
" 1844	"	"	"	"	625,000
Total	..	..	..	..	3,563,000

To which must be added the prospective saving to take place in 1854 of £225,000, and making a total annual reduction of charge by a reduction in the rate of interest of £4,188,000. Notwithstanding that reduction, the annual charge was not less in 1850 than £27,962,572; and we cannot flatter our readers with the hope of any further reduction at present. Californian and Australian gold has had no effect in raising price, very little effect in lowering the rate of interest, which was lower in 1844 than it is in 1852, and gives no reasonable prospect of, as some persons have said, facilitating the liquidation of the National Debt.

EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

ANTHONY has several remarkably effective pieces, chiefly landscapes, in which his peculiar study and method of handling are exemplified in a manner which must command respectful attention, if not in every instance unqualified approval. This artist has certainly one property all his own, which distinguishes him from the ordinary run of landscape painters of our day, and that is a constant seeking after variety, and a turn for experimentalising, which, if it do not always lead to glorious results, procures a store of valuable and interesting experience. In his treatment of foliage he is marvelously creative. Giving all due importance to the local colour and various characters of trees, he deals in light and shade with wonderful skill. The dark recesses of impenetrable gloom of parts are marked with a depth of tone which makes the superincumbent branch almost stand out in relief; and the lights which pierce through in other parts are thrown in here and there, so that we almost see the sky beyond, and feel the pervading atmosphere between it and the eye; and all this without any spottiness and glitter, the fear of which induces cautious landscape painters to generalise their foliage into masses more or less opaque. Of the former characteristic the clustering ivy upon the venerable village church, in "The Village Bridal" (No. 200), is a happy instance; the latter is remarkably exemplified in No. 372, "Shadows from the Leaves." But the most striking work which this artist exhibits on the present occasion is, unquestionably, No. 230, entitled "The Ferry—Twilight." The constituent elements of this work are simply some farm buildings on the edge of a calm sheet of water, which, only partially broken by the introduction of the ferry-boat and some punts, occupies the lower portion of the canvass, whilst a cold evening sky covers the upper part; more than two-thirds of the whole being thus devoted to air and water. The peculiarity of the picture consists in the bold manner in which the various objects on shore and afloat are reflected upon the surface, or rather re-integrated in the very depths of the water. The effect, when viewed from across the room, and through a roll of paper, is perfectly illusive, and we strongly suspect may be partly attributable to a study of the properties of the Daguerrotypes. Upon close inspection we remark that the water which looks so translucent at a distance is laid on with a roughness of surface and thick *impasto*, especially at the points where the shadows fall upon it, in many respects at variance with the ordinary method of water-painting. No. 430, the "Glen at Eve," is successful as to the foliage, but not in respect of the rocks, which have a chocolate

EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

look, and the figures introduced into the foreground, which are decidedly an eye-sore. No. 88, "Thoughtful Honor," is a picture in a totally different line, showing the interior of a poor cottage, with a young mother thoughtfully contemplating the cradle in which her young infant reposes. The idea is suggestive to every heart, and its unity is not spoiled by the introduction of any irrelevant accessories. There is the same boldness which we remark in this artist's other works in the use of colour as an essential element of effect, which viewed as a whole is agreeable. In conclusion, however, we must add, that in details of drawing, particularly where the human figure is concerned, Mr. Anthony is often careless, and occasionally incorrect—a fault which we should be glad to see him overcome.

Clint's landscapes are characterised by great truthfulness and a healthy tone of colouring. No. 238, "View near Parkstone, Dorsetshire," is an extremely happy example of English rural scenery; the village nestling in the middle ground, and in the distance the river striking out right and left. The aerial perspective is well managed. 160, "A Sunset," is a clever little bit, a rich and harmonious effect being produced with great simplicity and boldness of colouring.

Herring, as usual, revels in cattle subjects: his farmyards are stocked with horses, pigs, poultry, done to the very life. In the first named, however, he appears to have studied upon a few favourite models, and the portraits, particularly that of the old familiar white horse, are at once recognisable. There is a want of judgment, however, in the general treatment, more especially in the colouring, which deprive these productions of the classic interest with which they might otherwise be invested. 191, "Cromwell's soldiers in possession of Arundel church," of which they made a guard-room and stable, otherwise a well-studied picture, is unattractive on account of the monotonous coldness of the colouring. Woolmer, on the other hand, whilst evincing a happy skill in the treatment of the human figure, in fanciful subjects, sins by an undue predilection for a sickly hue, and a mixture of pale green, yellow, &c., which pervades more or less all his pictures. This is especially the case in 227, "The Bride," where there is not a single sober tone suffered to intrude to relieve the factitious glitter. The subject, as a composition, is prettily treated, as will be soon acknowledged on an inspection of our Engraving of it. In his "Dorthea" the colouring is so tawdry and spotty as to detract all interest from the figure, which happens to be extremely well studied. "Eve" (255) nursing her first-born is commonplace in treatment, and might as well be termed Mrs. Smith or Mrs. anybody else. "The Lady in the glass case" (326) pleasingly realises the well-known story in the "Arabian Nights." The face of the heroine is a pretty one, and the figure nicely defined through a light drapery; and the stagey glare of colouring is, perhaps, less out of keeping here than in other works by the



"THE BRIDE."—PAINTED BY A. J. WOOLMER.

same hand. The "Adam and Eve driven out of Paradise," which hangs in the Great Room, is in every respect a failure.

F. Underhill exhibits a single work of very noticeable merit, 264, "A Gleaner," whose healthy, rosy face is surmounted by a straw hat jauntily put on, the whole producing a very picturesque and agreeable effect.

J. Danby has two pieces, one "A Ship on Fire" (15)—a common-

place subject, with which it is very easy to do something, and impossible to do much, and which we certainly consider to be beneath his talent; the other, a very nice view of "Loch Long, with Carrick Castle" (371), in which his broad glowing tints are happily introduced.

Boddington has several landscapes in his own real, genuine style, telling of healthful study in the open fields, by the winding river, and on the mountain top. We could wish, however, for the infusion of a little poetry into their treatment, which would ensure the productions of this conscientious and painstaking artist a much higher rank and a much more enduring fame than any purely local sketches can ever lay claim to.

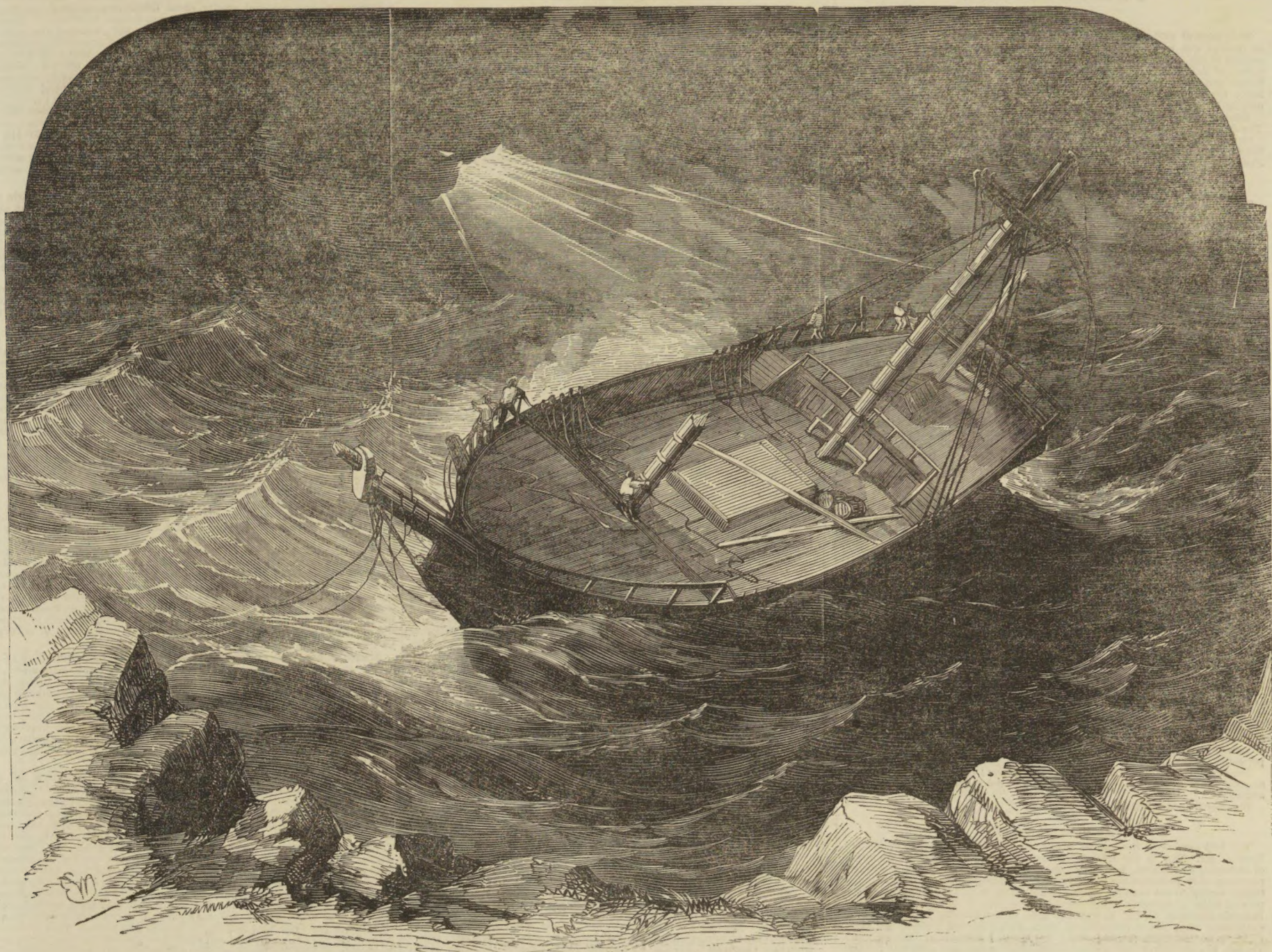
G. W. Willis has three very pleasing designs—(199) "The Shepherd's Home" and (228) "Highland Hospitality," both interiors; and (422) "A Highland Road." We have engraved the second named, the story of which is very intelligently told, without any attempt at exaggeration. The colouring, however, is not quite so effective as might be desirable in so small a subject, and which we see so admirably accomplished in the works of Wilkie, as well as those of Absolon and some of the present day.

Mrs. Hurlstone presents us with a small panoramic homily upon the "Women of England in the Nineteenth Century" (271), which we could wish had been spared us. The canvass is divided into two compartments with arched tops: in the one is a scene in an opera-box, with several ladies eating ices, and flirting with an officer in regimentals, whilst the "pet of the ballet" is performing her accustomed *pas*; in the other is a dull dark garret, the details of which are rendered visible by a single rushlight, beneath whose flickering rays an emaciated girl painfully realises the "Song of the Shirt," "stitch, stitch, stitch," &c. In the angles above are represented the lady hunting, the poor girl harnessed to a waggon in a coal-pit, &c.—all to carry out the contrast to its most painful limits. Not to say that the picture is badly executed, we would really submit that it was conceived in bad taste, and can lead to no useful or kindly result. There have been rich and poor in all ages of the world; and it is neither generous nor just to lay to the door of the ladies of England of the nineteenth century, the sins of neglect and selfishness which this picture, if it means anything, would seem to imply.

J. W. Glass is guilty of a pun and a trick of art in a piece of very small dimensions, entitled "A Blue of the deepest die." The pun consists in dressing the lady bookworm in a blue dress of eye-killing intensity; the trick in heightening the "effect" by introducing the light from above, and at the back of, the figure, which throws the white collar and the tip of the toe into preternatural relief. It is needless to remark, that in every one of these achievements Mr. Glass violates the true principles of art, and disregards the harmony of nature, upon which they are founded.



"HIGHLAND HOSPITALITY."—PAINTED BY G. W. WILLIS.



LYCEUM THEATRE.—SCENE FROM THE NEW DRAMA OF "THE CHAIN OF EVENTS."—THE SHIPWRECK.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

The Chain of Events" attracts and will continue attractive, notwithstanding its extraordinary length. It was a bold venture; but proved, by the result, like most bold ventures, to be a wise one. The management is not of the faint-hearted school, and through good and evil still works its way successfully. The perfection of Mr. C. Mathews's acting carries him through an up-hill part with an air of ease which begets confidence and conciliates attention. The difficulty vanishes in the nonchalance of the actor; the art is so perfectly concealed, that the assumption appears the most natural thing in the world, though the elements of the entire character, both as written and spoken, are inherently artificial. Next to the admirable acting is the unparalleled mounting of the play. We give an illustration of the second act, which is composed of the shipwreck. Dialogue in the scene, there is little or none; nothing, indeed, but the exclamations of the sufferers, and the cry of "Save me! save me!" from the drowning man (the future pseudo-Marquis) to the will-stealing footman, who finds in him a ready and unsuspecting agent. The tossing and rolling of the vessel amidst the tumult and the darkness, made visible by the lightning flash, was

managed with a reality that brought at once sea, sky, and storm-tossed bark not only before the imagination, but the vision. Then the sudden going down of the ship! It was terrible. The shriek of the audience almost substituted that of the crew. Scenic effect and the *mise en scène* may be said to be brought in these days to perfection. Madame Vestris was the first to pay proper attention to it; she it was who led the way for Macready, and she still secures the precedence by superior excellence. The completeness of the performances at the Lyceum have been of good example, and public gratitude is due to the management.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

The comedy of "Money" has been revived, for the purpose of further testing the merits of Mr. Barry Sullivan. His Evelyn is, indeed, an intelligent and elegant piece of acting; and we have no doubt that this actor will gradually grow into public favour.

We this week furnish an illustration from Mr. Mark Lemon's burlesque, "O Gemini." It is from the last scene the conflict between *Chateau Renaud* and

the avenging brother. The fight is with lath foils, which are broken, and the contest is ludicrously prolonged with the splintered points. The satire is here well applied, and both Mr. Buckstone and Mrs. Buckingham are comically effective. The merit of this burlesque is increased by the difficulty of the subject. Mr. M. Lemon has not translated the theme into another, but found his salient points in the original subject. For the melodramatic dressing he has simply substituted the literal prosaic version; for the stage ghost, he has given the turnip-headed one of vulgar frolic, and reduced the ghost story to the absurdity of profane belief. It is a spurious spirituality that believes in apparitions, and there is always a sense of the ludicrous in ghost stories; but it is hard to hit the precise point where incredulity begins to perceive the ridiculous. Philosophy, of course, ignores the possibility altogether as a mere matter of definition, since a spirit, becoming visible, ceases to be spiritual, and becomes a materialised substance—a bodily presentment. They should be called apparitions, and not ghosts. The ordinary mind has an instinctive sense of this; even the most ignorant feel the influence; and the caricaturist should so manage the argument as not to impugn the true doctrine of spirits, while sporting with the vagaries of superstition. We think that Mr. M. Lemon has hit the mean.



HAYMARKET THEATRE.—SCENE FROM THE NEW BURLESQUE OF "O GEMINI."—THE COMBAT.

THE THEATRES.

HER MAJESTY'S.

The return of Mlle. Cravelli in *Norma*, of Gardoni as *Pollio*, and of Lablache as *Orestes* was enthusiastically greeted on Saturday night. The acting and singing of the young *prima donna* were distinguished by the same beauties and defects of last season. The tendency to exaggerate certain passages produced fatigue and uncertainty of the voice; but with all her eccentricities of style, Mlle. Cravelli has the elements of a great artist, and it will be entirely her own fault if she fail to occupy the highest position on the lyric boards.

Rossini's sparkling "Italiana in Algeri" was given for the second time on Tuesday, with Mlle. Angri, Calzolari, and Ferranti. On Thursday, for the extra night, Rossini's "Il Barbiere" was revived: Mlle. Sofie Cravelli being the *Rosina*; Calzolari, the *Count*; Ferlotti, *Basilio*; Balletti, *Figaro*; and Lablache, *Dr. Bartolo*.

DRURY-LANE.

There has been a wordy warfare between the lively lessee and the "tender tender," which ended in the secession of Mr. and Mrs. Sims Reeves, and the substitution of Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. Harrison in Balfe and Bunn's "Bohemian Girl." It is not our custom to notice squabbles behind the scenes, but the manifesto of Mr. Sims Reeves must not be passed over in silence; inasmuch as it is important for the public to know whether it be the manager, or the artist, who is the cause of perpetual disappointment in the attempt to establish a National Opera. Now it is quite evident from the tone of Mr. Sims Reeves' appeal, that he considers himself the ground-landlord, the proprietor, the renter, the lessee, the manager, and the Atlas of Drury-lane Theatre. This is a delusion which must be dispelled by Mr. Reeves as quickly as possible; as, after all, if he were a Mario or a Tamberlik, he would simply be a member and not a monarch of a large establishment. Mr. Sims Reeves must remove his lyric crown, and remember that he was but an *employé*, and only one of her Majesty's subjects, although he did draw from the treasury a salary nearly as large as that of a Minister of State or of a Judge. That he was not indispensable, has been proved by the full houses since his departure.

Beethoven's "Fidelio" was produced on Tuesday, for the *début* of Madame Falconi, a vocalist known in our concert-rooms formerly under the name of Madame Beckholtz. She has a very fine voice, and sings like an accomplished artist. Her reception was very cordial. Miss Rebecca Isaacs was the *Marcellina*; M. Féder, *Florestan*; Mr. Whitworth, the *Governor*; Mr. Drayton, *Rocco*; Mr. S. Jones, *Fernando*; and Mr. Manvers, *Jacquino*; and the execution of the opera was careful and conscientious, under Schira's able direction.

MARYLEBONE.

Mlle. Anna Georges appeared on Monday as *Helen* in the "Hunchback." Her personal appearance was greatly in her favour; but her style at present is too elaborate and indiscriminately slow to realise expectation. There is, however, great promise of her becoming an *artiste*; and when practice shall have given her facility, she may hope for popularity.

ROYAL MARIONETTE THEATRE.—The introduction of some ebony Marionettes, as Ethiopian Serenaders, has proved very successful. The make-up of these figures is capital, they being striking facsimiles of the original and popular troupe. Their performance is very clever, and nightly elicits great applause.

MUSIC.

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

The symphonies at the third concert were the No. 9 of Mozart, and the No. 8 of Beethoven; the overtures were Weber's "Der Freyschütz," and Chernobin's "Anacreo"; and the solo instrumental displays those of the accomplished Miss Kate Loder in Weber's Piano-forte Concerto in E flat, and of M. Sainton in a Violin Concerto of his own composition. In this scheme there was no attempt at novelty, but it afforded unmixed gratification to the subscribers from the perfection of the execution under Costa's artistic direction.

The vocalists were Madame Castellan, Miss Dolby, and Mr. Benson, whose singing of the classic pieces allotted to them won the unanimous suffrages of the auditory.

The fourth concert will be on the 31 of May.

THE MUSICAL UNION.

The first *matinée* of the eighth season was given on Tuesday, at Willis's Rooms. Mr. Ella, in his interesting *Record*, announces that the accession of members this season has been considerably increased. This continued patronage has prompted the able director to increased exertion, and in no former campaign has such talent been concentrated as will be heard during the present series of concerts. Beethoven's Quartet, Op. 18. No. 66, in B flat, and Mozart's Quintet in D, No. 4, were included in the opening programme; the executants being Sivori (first violin), Herr Moralt (second violin), Mr. Oury (first viola), Mr. Webb (second viola), and Piatti (violincello). Moralt, from Munich, is a nephew of the veteran pianist John Cramer, and cousin of the late eminent tenor player Moralt. Pierre Moralt is also one of the famed Moralt Quartet Brothers, at Munich. Mr. Oury is a valuable accession as a quartet performer. Madame Pleyel was to have been the *pianiste*, her first appearance here since 1846; but, owing to indisposition, was unable to appear; and the *début* of Mademoiselle Claus, the eminent Bohemian *pianiste*, unexpectedly took place. Her performance of pieces by Bach, Beethoven, and Liszt, created a great sensation; she is a most remarkable player, quite young in years, but thoroughly trained in mechanism, and possessing in an eminent degree the highest order of artistic feeling.

MONTHLY CONCERTS.

At the fourth concert at St. Martin's Hall, on Wednesday, the evidence of progress of Mr. Hullah's Upper Singing Schools was manifested by the execution of Mendelssohn's "Elijah," the principal parts being sustained by Mrs. Endersohn, Miss Chambers, Miss Williams, Miss Kent, Messrs. Lockey, T. Williams, Backland, and Whitehouse.

MUSICAL EVENTS.

M. Billet gave his fifth piano-forte performance on Tuesday night at St. Martin's Hall; and on the same evening Mr. Kjalmark, at the Queen Anne street-Rooms, had his third concert of Classical and Modern Piano-forte Music. The Beethoven Quartet Society had the second meeting on Wednesday, with Mlle. Conlon, Sivori, Sainton, Hill, and Ronsselot, as executants. On the same evening Miss Messent gave a *soirée musicale* at her residence in Stratton-street. Mlle. Speyer, a clever pianiste, had her second *soirée musicale* on Thursday, at the Queen Anne street-Rooms, assisted by Herr Moralt (violin), Mlle. de Lozano, and Herr Standigl, his first appearance in London these five years; Mr. Aguilier and Signor Billella were the accompanists. Last night, at Exeter-hall, the Sacred Harmonic Society, under Costa's direction, performed Mendelssohn's "Elijah." Mlle. Clara Novello, Miss A. Loder, Miss Dolby, Miss Williams, Messrs. Sims Reeves, Walker, A. Novello, Smythson, and Herr Formés, being the chief singers. The second concert of the Royal Academy of Music will be given this morning (Saturday). On Monday will be the third concert of the Amateur Musical Society, and the first morning concert of the English Glee and Madrigal Union, and Herr Jansa's second *soirée*. On the same evening will be the annual performance of Handel's "Messiah," for the benefit of the Royal Society of Musicians. On this occasion it will take place at Exeter-hall, under Costa's direction; and the Sacred Harmonic Society will afford choral aid, the chief singers being Mlle. Clara Novello, Miss Louisa Pyne, Mr. Lockey, Mr. Swift, Mr. Benson, Mr. Phillips, Herr Formés, &c. M. Billet's last piano-forte *soirée* will be on Tuesday. On Thursday will be the third concert of the New Philharmonic Society, at which Berlioz's "Romeo and Juliet" symphony will be repeated; Mr. Neate's sixth quartet and piano-forte *soirée*; and the first meeting of the Quartet Association. M. Emile Prudent's morning concert will be on Thursday. On Friday, the fifth *soirée* of the Musical Institute, and the evening concert of Signor and Mme. Ferrari. On Saturday, Mrs. John Macfarren's *matinée*. Herr Rudolph Schacher, a distinguished composer and pianist, has arrived in town from Vienna, for the season. The committee of the Norwich Musical Festival have decided that, in addition to Dr. Buxfield's "Israel Restored," a new oratorio, "Jerusalem," by H. H. Pierson, Esq., who once occupied the chair of music at the University of Edinburgh, shall be produced. The meeting will commence on the 20th of September.

FOREIGN MUSICAL NEWS.

A new comic opera in two acts, "Galathée"—the libretto by MM. Barbier and Carré, and the music by M. Victor Masé—has been successfully produced at the Paris Théâtre de l'Opéra Comique. At the 125th representation of Meyerbeer's "Prophète," at the Grand Opéra in Paris, the receipts were nearly 10,000fr. Alboni has arrived in Paris from Madrid, and contemplates a tour to the United States. The Duke of Saxe-Coburg's opera, "Casilda," has been brought out at Brussels with the greatest success; the principal parts sustained by Mmes. Barbot and Cabel; MM. Barbot, Carmon, and Mangin. This work will be produced at Her Majesty's Theatre this season. Jules Benedict, the pianist and composer, had left Pisa for Stuttgart, his natal city. On the 16th inst. he directed the performance of his opera, "The Crusaders," before the King of Wurtemberg and the Grand Dukes of Russia, brothers of the Princess Royal of Wurtemberg.—The great musical festival of associated Belgian, French, and German chorals will take place at Lille on the 20th of June.

LONDON WEDNESDAY CONCERTS.—At the fourth of these entertainments, on the 21st instant, at Exeter Hall, Mlle. Jetty Treffz made her first appearance this season, and was heartily greeted. She was encored in a ballad by Mozart, "Forget me not," and in Moore's "Love's Young Dream." She also introduced a new song by Kücken, the composer of "Trab, trab," which was well received. Braham was encored in "Scots wha hae" and in the "Old English Gentleman." The Misses Brougham, Miss Stabbach, Miss Rose Braham, Miss Jacobs, Miss Allayne, Herr Reichart, Mr. G. Tedder, Sivori, Lavigne, Bottesini, Remusat, Billot, Schimon, &c., afforded their aid in the attractive programme.

From a return just issued, it appears that the income, with balances, of the Duchy of Lancaster in the year ending Michaelmas last, amounted to £35,998 2s. 9d., out of which £12,000 was paid to her Majesty's Privy Purse. After various payments the balance was £23,998 3s. 5d.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

BANQUET TO HER MAJESTY'S MINISTERS.

On Saturday last a magnificent banquet was given to her Majesty's Ministers by the Goldsmiths' Company, at their magnificent hall. The chair was occupied by the Prime Minister, Alderman W. J. Copeland, M.P., supported by the Premier, the Right Hon. the Earl of Derby; the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Duke of Northumberland; the Marquis of Salisbury, the Marquis of Downshire, the Earl of Hardwicke, Earl de Grey, the Earl of Wilton, the Earl of Verulam, Viscount Newport, Viscount Hardinge, the Bishop of London, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Walpole, Sir John Pakington, &c., several members of the leading public and banking companies of the City, and the officers of the Goldsmiths' Company, amounting in all to about 110 guests.

After the usual loyal toasts had been given, the "Health of the Bishop of London" was drunk. The right rev. prelate briefly responded.

The "Army and Navy" was responded to by the Duke of Northumberland and Viscount Hardinge, the distinguished representatives of both services.

The next toast was the "Health of their brother Goldsmith, the Earl of Derby, and her Majesty's Ministers," which was drunk with acclamation.

The Earl of Derby, in returning thanks, said, "Among the strange revelations and strange changes which have taken place, perhaps few are calculated to produce so great an effect—few have produced so great a feeling of astonishment and wonder, as the recent discovery, in various quarters of the world, of that which was heretofore considered as the precious metal, that which is the staple of the industry of your craft. Hitherto that metal had been considered as confined to a very limited space, to quarters capable of small extension, and spread over a very small portion of the world; but suddenly, to the astonishment of the world, in various distant regions, at one and the same time, it came pouring in upon us with a profusion astonishing to all classes and all ranks, the effect of which it is difficult to foresee; but it is not difficult to say that it must work a strange and extraordinary revolution in the system of society and in our commercial relations. (Hear.) But, gentlemen, it is not only in regard to the discovery of gold that new resources have been opened to us. Up to within a very short time there existed, as with regard to gold, a popular delusion that the field of statesmen and of politicians was almost as limited. It was supposed that the crop of statesmen was one of a very limited amount, for which, if you were supposed to dig, you must dig in certain favoured localities and confine your search to them. (Laughter and cheering.) I am happy to think, gentlemen, that I have been in some degree instrumental in dispelling that illusion. (Loud cheers.) The fortunate adventurer, who was honoured by the commission of her Majesty to do the best he could for her service, has ventured boldly to open a new mine, and I am happy to say that in the opinion of competent judges, so far as it has been worked, the ore raised has contained as large a proportion of sterling metal, with as little admixture of dross as any that was ever drawn from the old and exclusive mines to which we were formerly confined. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, to speak seriously, the Prime Minister has told you that he is convinced, and he has no justice in saying so, that we came forward, not as the advocates and supporters of any particular interest, but feeling deeply our responsibility to maintain and uphold all the great interests of the country, of which, if any one suffers, it must affect the others more or less. (Hear, hear.) We feel that it is not our duty to be promoters of this or that craft, but the protectors, and defenders, and upholders of the whole; and by maintaining and encouraging the interests of the country—by upholding and supporting the law, we shall afford the best encouragement to the industry of every denomination, and maintain the integrity of the institutions of this country, whether in Church or State. This we shall do by maintaining inviolate the Constitution, and upholding the religious liberties of this country and the rights of the Protestant religion, from whatever quarter assailed. (Loud cheering.) By such a course, whether assaulted at home or abroad, permitting neither assault nor insult on the part of anybody, we feel assured that we shall best discharge the arduous duties which have been cast upon us, and best warrant the confidence reposed in us by our gracious Sovereign, and best merit the confidence and support of that people over whose interests we are bound to watch; and, gentlemen, whether our course be long or short, to recur again to the metaphor that has been used, it is our hope and trust, as it will be our exertion to secure, that when our career is closed, the country will have no right to regret having subjected us to this our first essay."

MANSION HOUSE.—On Tuesday the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress entertained at dinner the members of the Court of Common Council and their ladies, of the wards of Coleman-street, Aldersgate, Aldgate, Bessishaw, Bishopsgate, Bread-street, Bridge, Broad-street, Coadwick, Castle Baynard, Chesham, Croydon, and Cornhill. There were also present Mr. Alderman Cubitt, M.P., Mr. Sheriff Cotterell, Mrs. Cotterell, and Miss Cotterell, Mr. Sheriff Swift and Mrs. Swift, and several private friends of the Lord Mayor. Covers were laid in the Egyptian Hall for 250.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—On Wednesday evening the ordinary monthly meeting of the members of this society took place at the institution, John-street, Adelphi—Lord Montagu in the chair—when a paper was read by Mr. Digby Wyatt upon the principles which should determine form in the decorative arts.

BRITISH ORPHAN ASYLUM, CLAPHAM RISE.—On Wednesday evening the 35th anniversary festival was held at the London Tavern; the Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair. The children in the schools, 102 in number, were brought into the room, and sang two appropriate hymns. The healthy and cheerful appearance of the children seemed to excite the warmest satisfaction in the minds of the gentlemen present, as it certainly did credit to those to whose care they had been committed. The liberal sum of £754 14s. 6d. in donations and subscriptions was announced, in addition to a donation of £350 which had been paid to the credit of the institution by Admiral Sir J. Oge and Mr. Henry Denton, the trustees of the late Mrs. Ogle, who had left a sum of money to be applied at their discretion to charitable purposes. The total receipts last year were £2835 18s. 4d., and the total expenses were £2492 15s. 8d.

GOVERNESSES' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—The ninth annual dinner of the friends of this institution was held on Wednesday at the London Tavern; Lord Faversham in the chair. The report stated that the ladies' committee have themselves investigated exactly 1000 individual cases—receiving and considering 4318 applications from distressed ladies—and have had the pleasure of giving aid more than 2300 times, with an amount of £6000. The annuities to the aged have been steadily increased, as far as could be done from vested capital, not from income. Forty-nine ladies are now receiving a small but certain income. The sum invested in this branch of the charity is about £30,000. The provident fund now exceeds £90,000, the savings of nearly 800 ladies, invested in Government securities, to form a provision for the time when they can work no longer. The savings-bank account is £7422. The registration, free of expense, saves thousands annually to governesses; more than 8000 ladies have availed themselves of it, and nearly 5000 have been provided with situations. Of the 1090 ladies who have sojourned in the "Home," all speak with gratitude—all wish to come again. Eighteen ladies are now the contented inmates of the Asylum for the Aged. The subscriptions announced in the course of the evening amounted to about £1000.

WESLEYAN REFORM.—On Tuesday evening a meeting of the advocates of Wesleyan reform took place at Exeter Hall, Strand, for the purpose of reviewing the proceedings and recommendations of the Conference Memorial Committee, and of the President's select laymen. Mr. G. W. Harrison, of Wakefield, occupied the chair. The secretary read a "declaration of principles," which stated that it had been deemed expedient, in vindication of the rights and liberties of the people called Methodists, to prepare a document setting forth their object and intentions, and expressing a belief that the restoration of all preachers, officers, and members, who had been expelled in consequence of the recent proceedings of the Conference, was essential to the future peace and prosperity of the connexion. The Rev. William Griffith, one of the expelled ministers, proposed, and the Rev. W. L. Horton seconded, a resolution protesting against the claim of the President's select laymen to be representatives of the Methodist people, and denouncing the proceedings of the Conference Memorial Committee and Lay Convocation as an insult to the Methodist societies, and subversive of the true interests of Christianity. The motion was agreed to, and was followed by other resolutions of a similar tendency.

NATIONAL SHIPWRECK INSTITUTION.—On Thursday the annual meeting of this society was held at the London Tavern; R.-Admiral his Grace the Duke of Northumberland presiding. The report stated that the appeal for assistance in the spring of last year had been responded by subscriptions amounting to upwards of £2000; that various life-boats had been established around the coast; that during the past year there had been 701 wrecks and 750 lives lost; that since the establishment of the institution in 1824, the society had granted as rewards to persons instrumental in saving life from shipwreck, 77 gold medals, 495 silver medals, and £3457. The total number of persons saved by persons who received rewards during the past year was 230; and since the establishment of the society, 7378, exclusive of the crews of several vessels the numbers of which were not ascertained. The report was adopted, and some routine business having been transacted, the meeting separated.

MASTER MARINERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.—On Thursday evening the annual meeting of this society was held at the Bridge-house Hotel; John Dare, Esq., presiding. It appeared from the report, that the number of shipwrecks of vessels connected with the society in the year 1849-50 was 36, and the same number occurred in the year 1850-51; whilst from the 1st of April, 1851, to the same date this year, the number was only 14. The expenses of the society during the past year were £1358 and there still remained to be credit of the society £593, being £59 over the account of last year. The report was adopted, and £200 set aside to give annuities of £10 each.

SOCIETY FOR DISTRESSED WIDOWS.—On Thursday the annual meeting of the charity was held at the office, Sackville-street, Piccadilly; the Right Hon. the Marquis of Cholmondeley presiding. It appeared from the report that during the past year £508 had been expended in the relief of 266 widows. The income of the year was £754, and the expenditure £655 6s. 11d.

TALLOWCHANDLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.—On Thursday the anniversary festival of this excellent charity was celebrated at the London Tavern; the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor presiding, supported by the Sheriffs, the Under-sheriffs, and about 80 other gentlemen. The chairman having made an eloquent appeal on behalf of the charity, and stated that there were now 48 pensioners on its funds—the men receiving 18s. per month, and the women 14s.—a subscription was entered into, which amounted to upwards of £500.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer acknowledges the receipt of the half of a £500 note from "L.M." for unpaid income-tax, with interest.

SURREY DISPENSARY.—The anniversary festival of the patrons and subscribers to this excellent charity, about 130 years established, was held on Wednesday, at the Bridge House Hotel, London-bridge, Southwark. About 100 gentlemen were present. J. W. Freshfield, Esq., M.P., occupied the chair. In the course of the evening it was stated that the number of persons who availed themselves of the advantages of the institution averaged from 5000 to 6000, of whom about 800 were attended at their own homes, and of these 600 were midwifery cases. The report stated that the property belonging to the charity amounted to £7385 8s. 11d., 34 per Cent., standing to the account of the general fund of the charity, and £241 19s. 10d., 34 per Cent., vested on account of the building fund. For the year ending Midsummer, 1851, the income amounted to £969 13s. 11d., and the expenditure to £1217 8s.; and there was in the hands of the treasurer a balance of £18 1s. belonging to the general fund, and £32 11s. 8d. belonging to the building rent fund. The subscriptions announced in the course of the evening amounted in the whole to about £420, including £105 5s. fresh subscriptions, and a donation of £100 from Mr. Robert Mann, of Great Dover-road.

LONDON HOMOEOPATHIC HOSPITAL.—The Earl of Albemarle presided at the anniversary festival of this institution on Wednesday evening, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. There were present a large number of ladies; and amongst the gentlemen we observed—The Marquis of Douro, Rev. J. Gossett, Mr. J. Uwins, R.A., &c. Mr. Paine proposed the "Duke of Wellington and the Army." The Marquis of Douro, in reply, said that the Duke was in the enjoyment of everything that should accompany old age, and he was affected with nothing which could interfere with his health or usefulness. Mr. Goldham proposed the "Memory of Samuel Hahnemann;" and the chairman afterwards proposed the "Homoeopathic Institution," which he stated to be in a most prosperous condition. Subscriptions to the amount of £712 were announced.

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY.—The 78th anniversary festival of this charitable institution took place on Wednesday, at Freemasons' Hall. About 150 gentlemen sat down to dinner. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge presided, and was supported by the High Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, Admiral Sartorius, and several other persons of distinction. The chairman, in proposing "Prosperity to the Royal Humane Society," said it appeared that the officers of the society had treated 184 cases, of whom 175 were recovered, and only 9 were pronounced beyond recovery. Sixteen honorary silver medals had been voted for extraordinary courage and risk of life, and 28 honorary medals for exertions of a less degree of importance. The toast having been duly honoured, the persons who had been rescued from a watery grave were paraded through the room, after which the medals were distributed; and the other toasts having been disposed of, the company separated. The collections and subscriptions amounted to nearly £800.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—In pursuance of a requisition most numerously and respectfully signed, directed to Francis Smedley, Esq., High Bailiff of the City of Westminster, a meeting was held on Saturday at noon, for the purpose of testing the opinion of the inhabitants with reference to the retention of the Crystal Palace. The meeting was numerously attended. The High Bailiff, Mr. McGregor, M.P., Mr. Geesin, Mr. T. Atkinson, Dr. Lankester, Mr. J. W. Marshall, Mr. Geach, M.P., and Admiral Sir G. Sartorius addressed the meeting, resolutions being agreed to that the Crystal Palace ought to be preserved in its present state; and that, arranged as a winter garden, and with collections illustrating nature, science, and art, it would greatly tend to the amusement and instruction of the people. Meetings have been held during the week in Finsbury, and other parts of the metropolis, in support of the continuance of the Crystal Palace.

METROPOLIS WATER SUPPLY.—On Tuesday the committee of the House of Commons to which this subject has been referred re-assembled—Mr. Becket in the chair—when, after hearing Professors Cooper and Brande on the question of the chemical peculiarities of the Thames water, the committee passed the first clause of the Government measure, which sets forth "that from and after [a date to be named] it shall not be lawful for any water company to take for the supply of the metropolis, or of any part thereof, any water from any part of the Thames below Teddington Lock, or from any part of the tributary rivers or streams of the river Thames below the highest point where the tide flows in such tributary rivers and streams respectively."

METROPOLITAN SANITARY ASSOCIATION.—A deputation of this body, headed by the Bishop of London, and comprising the Rev. Dr. Cumming, the Rev. C. Hume, Mr. B. Bond, Cabell, M.P., and several other gentlemen, waited on the Earl of Derby on Wednesday afternoon to present a memorial to his Lordship to call his Lordship's attention to the sanitary evils now pressing on the inhabitants of London, and to point out the means of their alleviation. The deputation was most courteously received by the noble Earl, with whom was Lord J. Manners. The Bishop of London, in introducing the deputation, took occasion to express his deep anxiety at the delay that had occurred in carrying into effect the Metropolitan Interments Act, and urged upon his Lordship the propriety of taking immediate steps to put an end to the present system of intramural interments, which reflected disgrace upon the metropolis. During the past year 40,000 bodies had been interred in the same graveyards either eight or ten years ago were found to be filled to overflowing. His Lordship then pointed out the present impure and insufficient state of the water supply to the metropolis, and the exorbitant rates charged for such an essential element of life; whilst it had been shown that it might be supplied at a cost which would render to all a constant, unlimited supply at 2d. per house per week. Mr. Lord observed that the memorial now lying before his Lordship stated that the death-rate of London was 25 per thousand per annum, or double the attainable minimum of mortality as established by the Registrar-general. That this needless rate of excessive mortality implied a proportionate excess of disease, and a corresponding depression of the public health. It is shown that the direct cost of, and estimated money loss through, typhus fever alone in the metropolis, amounted during the years 1843 to 1847 to £1,325,000, or £265,000 annually, exclusive of the amounts contributed for the purchase and maintenance of fever hospitals. Mr. F. O. Ward exhibited a diagram representing the Surrey uplands, with the sand spring water issuing above, and the Thames river drain, contaminated with manure and sewage, flowing below; and he showed in a very convincing way, that common sense, let alone chemistry and science, dictated our resorting for water supplies to the hill-tops, and not to the valley bottoms; while the proved waste in soap, soda, tea, &c., occasioned by the 20 tons of chalk contained in each day's supply of Thames water, amounted annually in London to no less than £1,000,000 a year. In reference to the subject of drainage, he proceeded to describe the new tubular organisation of farms, with iron pipes, hydrants, and hose and jet, by which the London sewage might be distributed over the adjacent lands, so soon as the mains for carrying it thither out of London were provided. He showed that this was no theoretical speculation, but was already in successful operation on many farms, and had raised the produce in one case to seventy tons of grass per acre per annum, and in another from twelve to eighty stacks per acre per annum, while in other cases it had raised land previously barren to a yearly value in produce exceeding £12 per acre. The necessary sewage mains for London would cost about a million sterling; and would yield, with large allowance for all possible contingencies and drawbacks, a net revenue of at least £2,000,000 per annum. The Earl of Derby thanked the speakers for their valuable suggestions, and replied at considerable length, commenting on the various obstacles to grappling at once with all the details of so vast a scheme, but assuring the deputation that the sanitary question occupied a large share of the attention of her Majesty's Government; and that, short as the session would be, they were in hopes of doing something towards settling the important question of extramural sepulture before the separation of Parliament.

ACCIDENT CAUSED BY MR. HUDSON'S (M.P.) CARRIAGE.—About ten o'clock on Thursday morning, in King William-street, opposite St. Martin's Church, Trafalgar-square, a boy ran against one of the horses in Mr. Hudson's carriage, and was knocked down, when one of the wheels went over his leg. The lad was taken immediately to Charing-cross Hospital. Everything that was possible was done for him; and Mr. Hudson, who went with him to the hospital, left a sovereign for his use. He is not believed to be in immediate danger.

DARING BURGLARY AT AN HOTEL.—On Tuesday night last, about twelve o'clock, some thieves obtained an entrance into the Clarendon Hotel, Clarendon-road, Notting-hill, by cutting away a portion of the sash of the back-parlor window, and succeeded in carrying off a cheque for £150 on the Commercial Bank, another cheque for £40 on the same bank, £16 4s. in silver, and 31d. in copper. The depredators also abstracted a quantity of silver money belonging to one of the servants.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.—The births registered in the metropolis for the week ending Saturday, April 17, were—Males, 805; females, 839; total, 1644. Deaths during the same period were—Males, 551; females, 541; total, 1092. The above return includes the whole of the metropolitan districts. The mortality of London again exhibits a slight increase, the deaths in the previous week having been only 1051. In the ten corresponding weeks of 1842-51 the average number of deaths was 944, which, if raised in proportion to increase of population, becomes 1038. It appears that there is a small increase in epidemics, in diseases of the nervous system, the heart, and the digestive organs, but a decrease in diseases of the organs of respiration, and also in the tubercular class. Small-pox, which, in the previous week, was fatal in 34 cases, numbers in the present return 38, which are those of 31 children and 7 adults. In six cases it is stated that vaccination had been previously performed, and in these the patients died at the following ages:—2, 3, 7, 10, 22, 27 years. Measles has increased in two weeks from 11 deaths to 18; typhus, remittent fever, &c., from 51 to 56. Influenza numbered in the two weeks respectively 4 and 6 cases; croup 8 and 10. The wife of a labourer, aged 26 years, died suddenly, on the 31st March, at 21, Gootman-yard, Whitechapel, from cholera. Diseases of the respiratory organs still exhibit a great excess above the ordinary amount at this period; the number of deaths last week being 214, whilst the average of corresponding weeks, corrected for increase of population, is only 165. Bronchitis, with the exception of phthisis, produces at present a greater mortality than any other disease on the list. It carried off 102 persons; pneumonia, 77; phthisis was fatal to 139.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.—At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean daily reading of the barometer was 30.055 in. on Sunday; it rose on Monday, and on Tuesday was 30.170 in., and continued above 30 in. till Friday. The mean of the week was 30.012 in. The mean daily temperature was 47.2 deg. on Sunday, or 3.2 deg. below the average of corresponding days in ten years; it rose continually till Wednesday, when it was 57.7 deg., or 11.3 deg. above the average. It fell below the average on Thursday, and on Friday was only 41.5 deg., which is 5.3 deg. below the average of the same day. The mean temperature of the week was 47 deg. The wind was generally in the east till Friday, on which day and Saturday it blew from the north-east.

